

HP

# THE PHANTOM<sup>®</sup>

The Complete Series: The King Years





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**The Complete Series: The King Years**

**HERMES**  
PRESS

neshannock, pennsylvania



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Published by Hermes Press an imprint of Herman and Geer Communications, Inc.

2100 Wilmington Road

Daniel Herman, Publisher

Louise Geer, Vice President

Neshannock, Pennsylvania 16105

(724) 652-0511

www.HermesPress.com; info@hermespress.com



Cover image: The Phantom and Hero from the cover of *The Phantom* #21, March, 1967, based on an image by Sy Barry

Cover and book design by Daniel Herman

First printing, 2012

LCCN 2012908344

ISBN 978-1-61345-009-3

Image scanning and digital corrections by H + G Media and Troy Musguire and Alissa Ross

From Dan, Louise, Sabrina, and D'zur for Gort and Maya

**Dates of original publication:** *The Phantom* #18, September, 1966; #19, November, 1966; #20, January, 1967; #21, March, 1967; #22, May, 1967; #23, July, 1967; #24, August, 1967; #25, September, 1967; #26, October, 1967; #27, November, 1967; and #28, December, 1967. Interior artwork to issues #18-24, 26-28 by Bill Lignante. Scripts to issues #18, 19, and 20 "The Invisible Phantom," 21-24 and 26-28 by Bill Harris. Script to issue #20 "The Adventures of the Phantom Girl" by Pat Fortunato. Interior artwork for issue #25 by Senio Pratesi; script by Giovanni Fiorentini. All covers by or based on images by Sy Barry. This Volume reprints all of the sequential King *Phantom* Comic books from issues #18-28. In addition to reprinting all the King *Phantom* comic books this volume also reprints all four *Phantom* stories contained as back-up material in King's *Mandrake the Magician* title. These stories are: "SOS Phantom" from *Mandrake the Magician* #1, September, 1966; "SOS Phantom: The Pirate Raiders" from *Mandrake the Magician* #2, November, 1966; "The Magic Ivory Cage" from *Mandrake the Magician* #3, January, 1967; and "The Girl Phantom: Jungle-Trained Sister of the Ghost Who Walks" from *Mandrake the Magician* #4, March, 1967. All artwork by Bill Lignante.

## Acknowledgments

This book would not be possible without the help, cooperation, patience, and kindness of many people. First and foremost in making this endeavor possible are all the folks at King Features: Ita Goltzman and Frank Caruso. Additionally, a tip of the ole hat to Pete Klaus (co-author of the informative essay prefacing this book) who provided invaluable help in assembling this volume. Also a hearty "thanks" to Ed Rhoades who is always there when we need clarification on point of Phantom history. Both Ed and Pete have provided us with resource material, contacts, information, and helpful insights into the world of The Phantom and continue to be there when we have questions about The Ghost Who Walks. Our thanks also to Howard S. Gesbeck for unearthing the unpublished cover artwork for the King *Phantom*. Last, but not least, thanks to Mark Rachow who came through in a pinch.





## The Complete Series: The King Years

5	<b>Introduction</b>	The Phantom, The King Years
8	<b><i>The Phantom #18</i></b>	The Treasure of the Skull Cave
34 50	<b><i>The Phantom #19</i></b>	The Astronaut and the Pirates The Masked Emissary
60 74	<b><i>The Phantom #20</i></b>	The Adventures of The Girl Phantom The Invisible Demon
86 100	<b><i>The Phantom #21</i></b>	The Treasure of Bengali Bay The Terror Tiger
112	<b><i>The Phantom #22</i></b>	The Secret of Magic Mountain
138	<b><i>The Phantom #23</i></b>	Delilah
164	<b><i>The Phantom #24</i></b>	The Riddle of the Witch
190	<b><i>The Phantom #25</i></b>	The Cold Fire Worshippers
216 232	<b><i>The Phantom #26</i></b>	The Lost City of Yango The Pearl Raiders
242 258	<b><i>The Phantom #27</i></b>	The Story of Hero The Long Trip Home
268 284	<b><i>The Phantom #28</i></b>	Diana's Deadly Tour The Big Fight
288 292 296 300	<b>Back-up Stories</b>	SOS Phantom SOS Phantom: The Pirate Raiders The Magic Ivory Cage The Girl Phantom

# contents



*full red / full yellow including*

# THE PHANTOM

*full yellow Bkg.*

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APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY  
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# Introduction

## The Phantom, the King Years

**I**n August, 1966, a decision was made by King Features Syndicate to publish a number of comic titles using their own licensed characters. Calling their new company King Comics, the syndicate could now eliminate the “middle man” and have greater control over the characters and the profit margin. Many of the comic titles to be used were previously published by “Gold Key” (Western Publishing) which ceased production of King Features properties in 1966. The characters to be used by this new company included: Beetle Bailey (issues #54 to #66), Blondie (issues #166 to #175), Flash Gordon (issues #1 to #11), Jungle Jim (issue #5), Mandrake the Magician (issues #1 to #10), and most importantly The Phantom (issues #18 to #28 published from September 1966 to November 1967).

Most of the cover art used for the King *Phantom* books were direct ‘swipes’ taken from the panels of renowned *Phantom* artist Sy Barry (*Phantom* newspaper comic strip artist from 1961 to 1993). The interior art for the King *Phantom* series was drawn by comic artist Bill Lignante (issue #25 had artwork by Senio Pratesi and was a reprint of an Italian *Phantom* comic book story). Lignante was also responsible for the story art for all 17 issues of the previous Gold Key *Phantom* series. Lignante had his own unique style illustrating The Ghost Who Walks. In addition to introducing modern layouts, he is the only syndicated Phantom artist to show The Phantom’s ears bulging from under his cowl. In addition, Lignante would occasionally draw The Phantom with eyes, a practice that Lee Falk once said detracted from The Phantom’s mysterious and ghostly persona. It is an undeniable fact that Lignante played an important part

Opposite page: color guide for the cover to King’s *The Phantom* #29, which never saw publication in the United States but later saw use in a Mexican *Phantom* comic book.







in the history of The Phantom in comic books by drawing numerous stories for Gold Key, King, and Charlton books.

King Comics initially sold their books individually to stores for 12 cents and later for 15 cents. Toward the end of their publishing run, the company decided to sell sets of three comic titles in a sealed plastic bag for 29 cents. A typical “3 pack” might consist of a group of action/adventure characters like Flash Gordon, Mandrake the Magician, and The Phantom or a set containing three humor comics titles such as *Beetle Bailey*, *Blondie*, and *Popeye*. To market this new idea, King comics displayed their “Three Pack Bags” in a very attractive, and beautifully decorated box which was typically found sitting at eye level on a store counter top. Each “3 pack” display box would hold about twenty five comic packs, and the idea was that this highly decorated box would help catch the eye of the buyer and act as a catalyst to sell the product, and perhaps introduce readers to other King Features characters. Even though it was a clever attempt to increase sales, the idea never really caught on. As a result of poor sales King Comics ceased production in December, 1967.

One notable point for *Phantom* comic collectors is that even though issue #28 was to be the last *Phantom* King Comic released by the company, the cover for issue #29 and issue #30

were actually produced but never published in the United States. Long time Phantom collector Harold Gesbeck of Madison Wisconsin, unearthed the King *Phantom* #29 and #30 “mock-up” covers. In addition, Gesbeck also found the cover for what would have been King *Phantom* #29 being sold in Mexico. It is also interesting to note that the interior art for this *Phantom* Mexican edition was drawn by Bill Lignante. The story was titled “The Ghost Tribe” which was used some years later, here in the USA, in Charlton Comics issue #35 (1969).

Even though King Comics were only published for about a year, their contribution to the history of The Phantom in comic books was significant. So, sit back and enjoy these well crafted stories from the 1960’s in all of their splendor, intrigue, and majesty.

— Pete Klaus and Howard S. Gesbeck

**Pete Klaus** has loved reading and collecting comic books since he was a youngster. Over his years of collecting he was fortunate to meet and become friends with Phantom originator Lee Falk. Additionally, Klaus has had an opportunity to interview many of the artists involved with The Phantom the likes of Sy Barry, Fred Fredicks, Luke McDonnell, George Oleson, George Wilson, Graham Nolan, Sal Vellutto, Keith Williams, Kari Leppenen [Finland], Felmang [Italy], Hans Lindhal [Sweden], Cesar Spadari [Argentina] and Paul Ryan.

In the early 1990’s he was the assistant editor of an international newsletter called *Friends Of The Phantom* and along with long time friend, artist, and writer Ed Rhoades, they interviewed many of the important comic book artists, writers, and publishers of *Phantom* comics around the world.

**Howard S. Gesbeck** is a retired Certified Public Accountant living with his wife in Madison, Wisconsin. He has been interested in The Phantom since he was ten years old and read the comic strip in the *Chicago American* newspaper on Sunday mornings.

Opposite page: counter display box of King comic books featuring a copy of *The Phantom* #26.



# THE PHANTOM

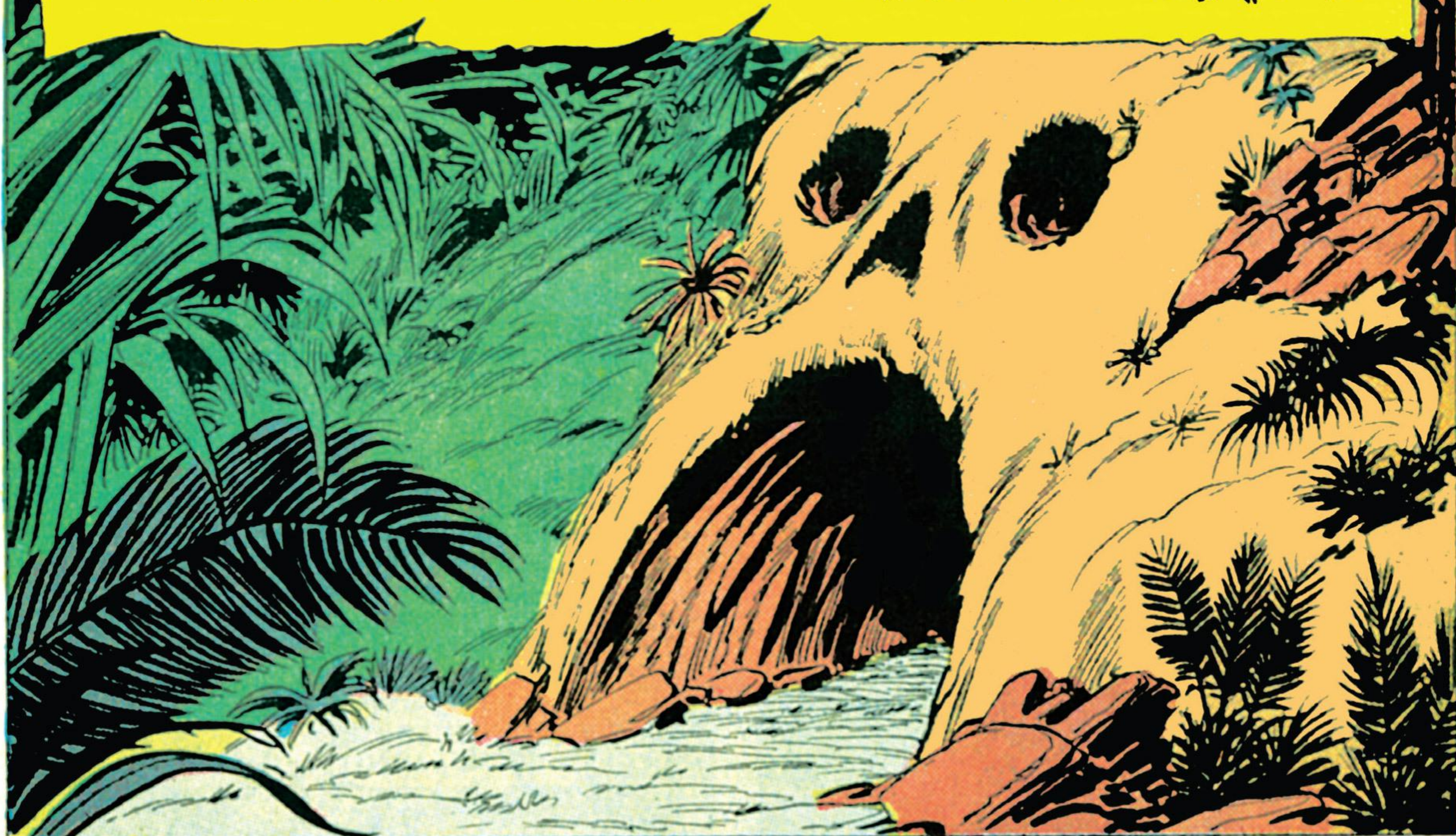


**Revealed! The fabulous secret treasure of the Skull Cave!**



**H**IDDEN TREASURES HAVE ALWAYS INTRIGUED MEN, FROM THE LOST MINES OF KING SOLOMON TO THE ENDLESS SEARCH FOR BURIED PIRATE TREASURE. BUT THE MOST EXCITING, MOST WHISPERED-ABOUT, IS THE FABULOUS PHANTOM TREASURE HIDDEN WITHIN THE MYSTERIOUS SKULL CAVE. FEW MEN KNOW ITS LOCATION, FEWER STILL HAVE SEEN

# The TREASURE of the SKULL CAVE



SOME MEN DEVOTE THEIR LIVES TO THE GREAT TREASURE HUNT. SOME, LIKE CAPPY SWARGO, HUNT DOWN THE TREASURE HUNTERS.

FIFTY THOUSAND, YOU SAY, COLONEL ANDREW?

... AND **CHEAP** AT THE PRICE! I **ALONE** KNOW THE LOCATION OF CLEOPATRA'S TREASURE!

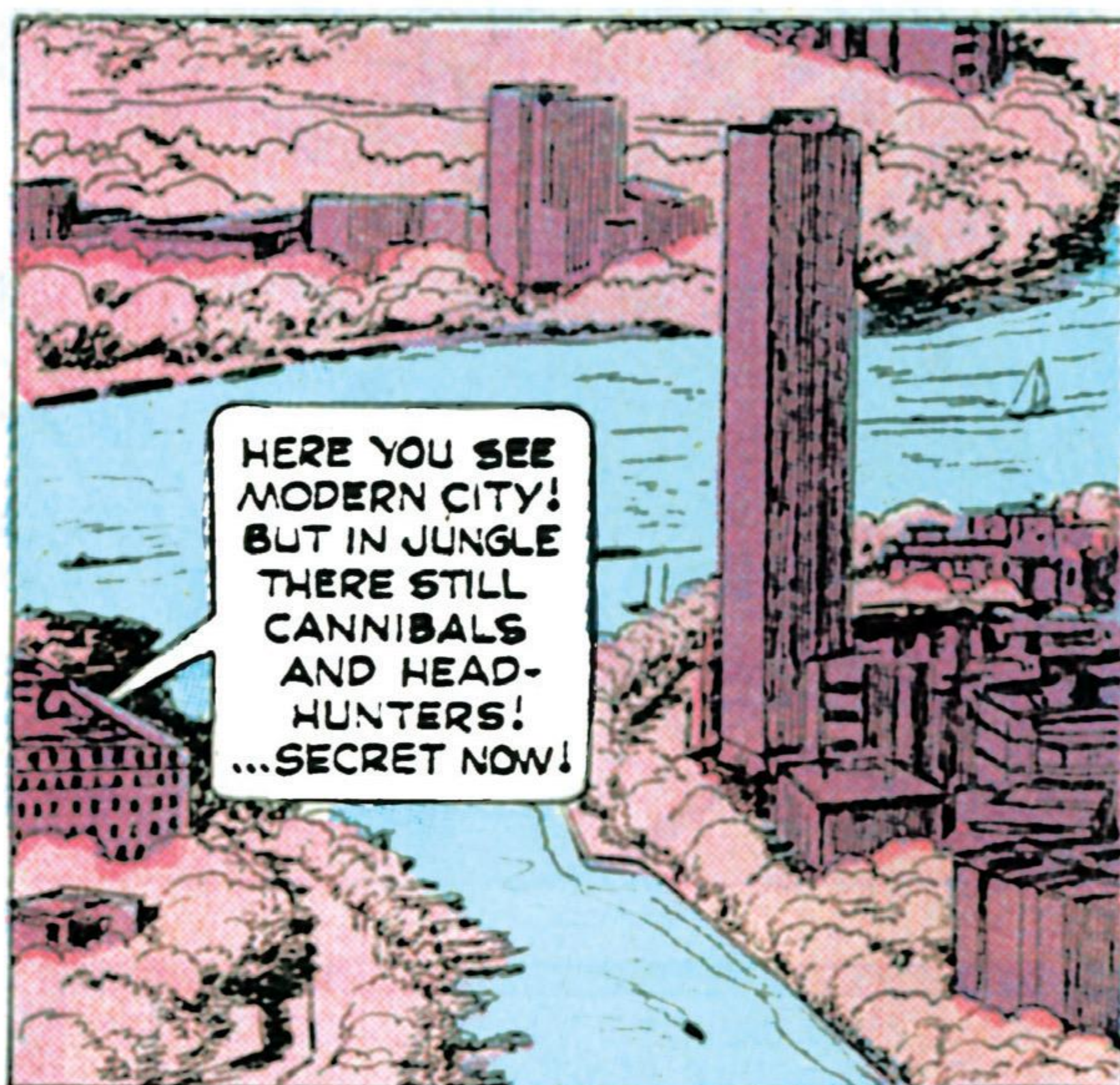
HMM  
!?!  
GRAND-  
PA...

SOME OTHERS, LIKE PIRATE PETE, LOOK FOR EASY MONEY IN OTHER WAYS. ... LIKE GUN RUNNING.

HEAVE TO, OR WE'LL BLAST YOU OUT OF THE WATER!



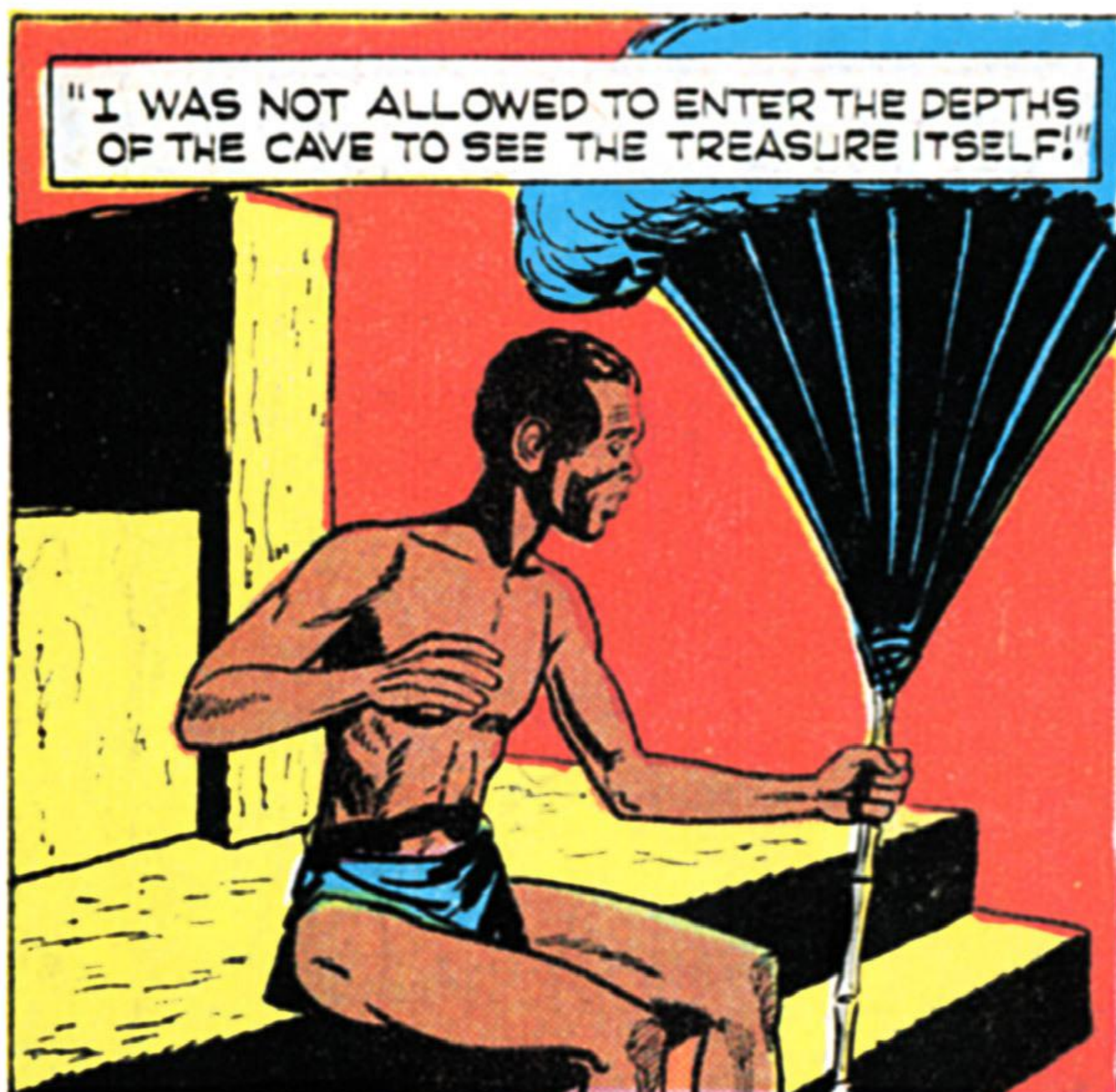




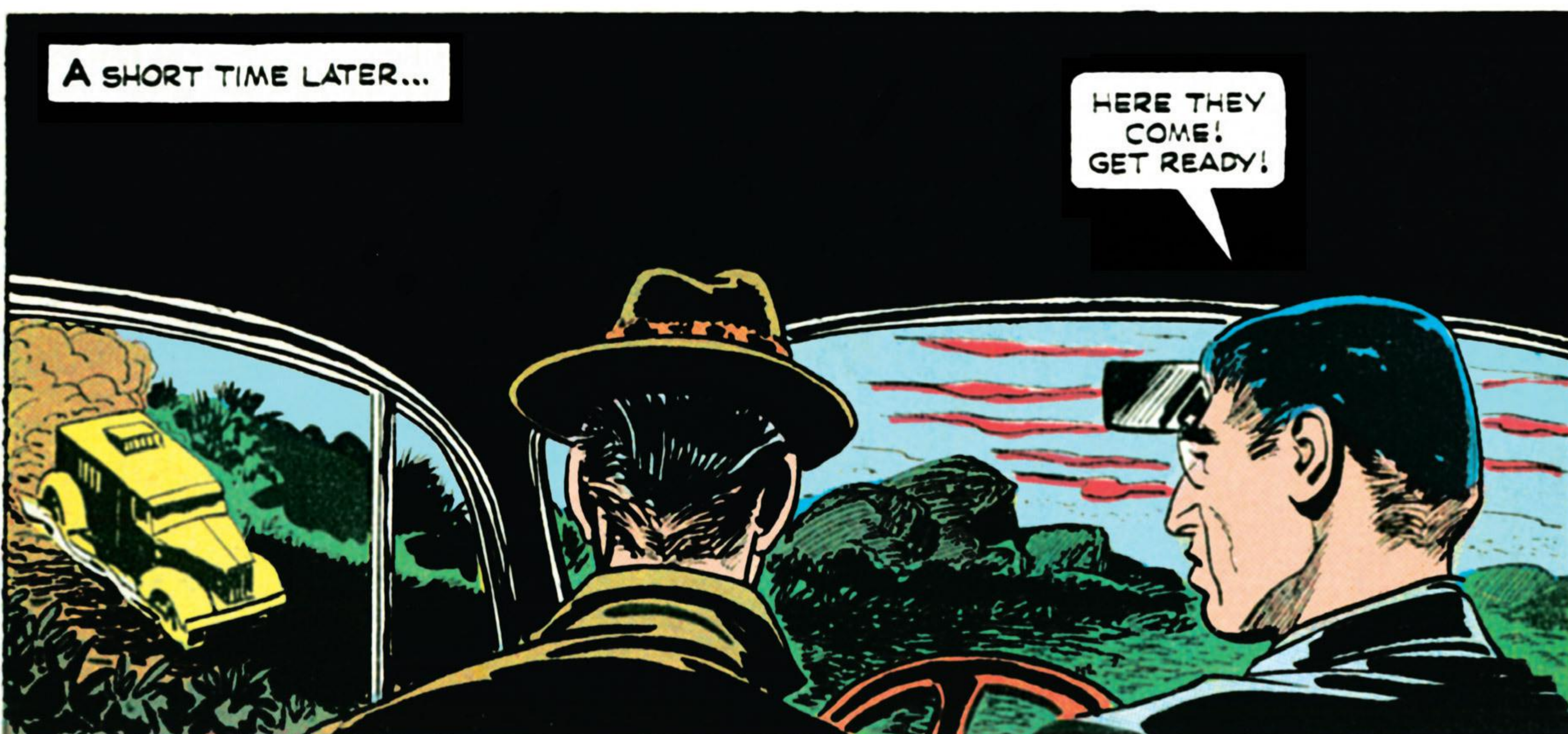
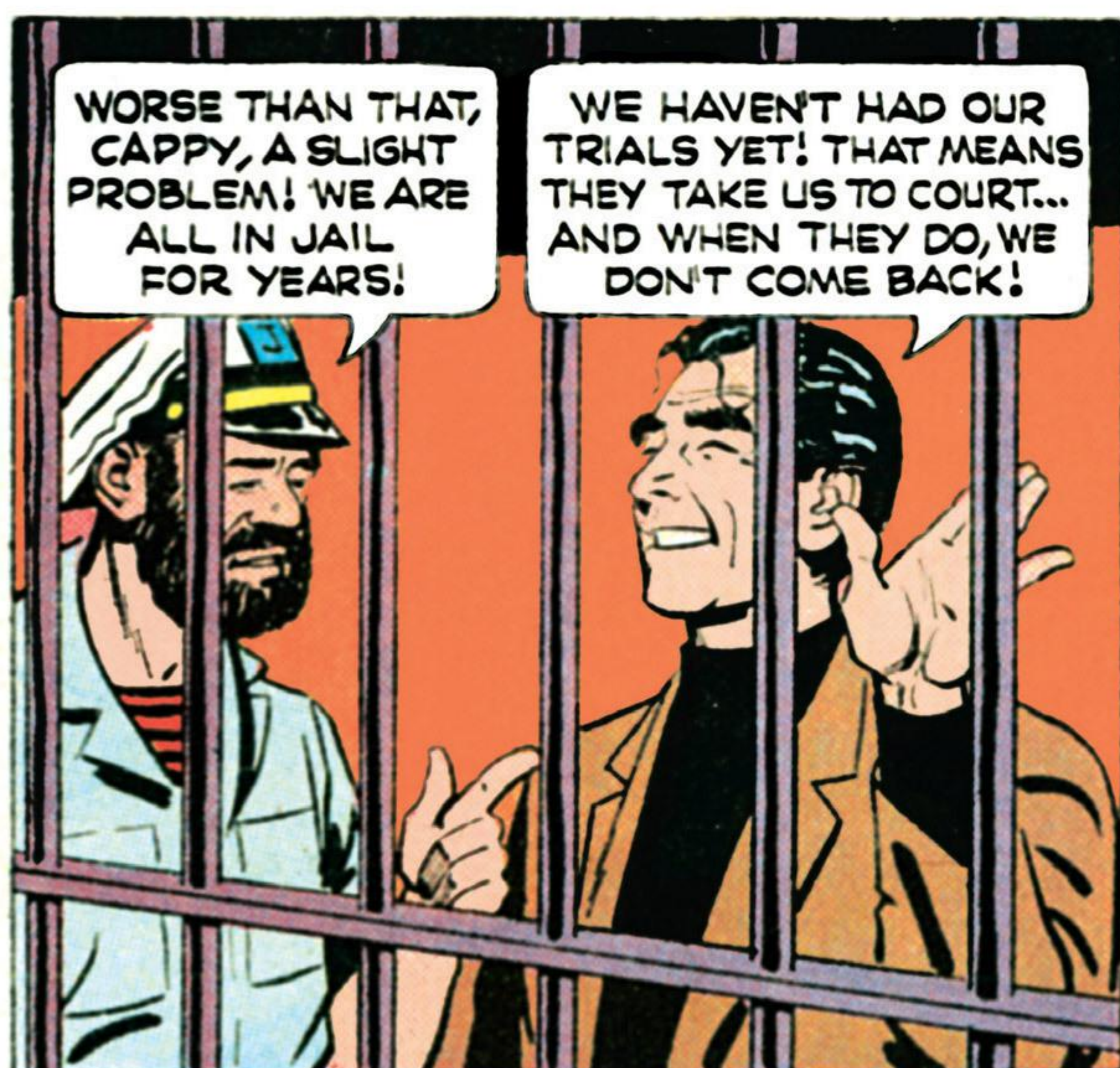








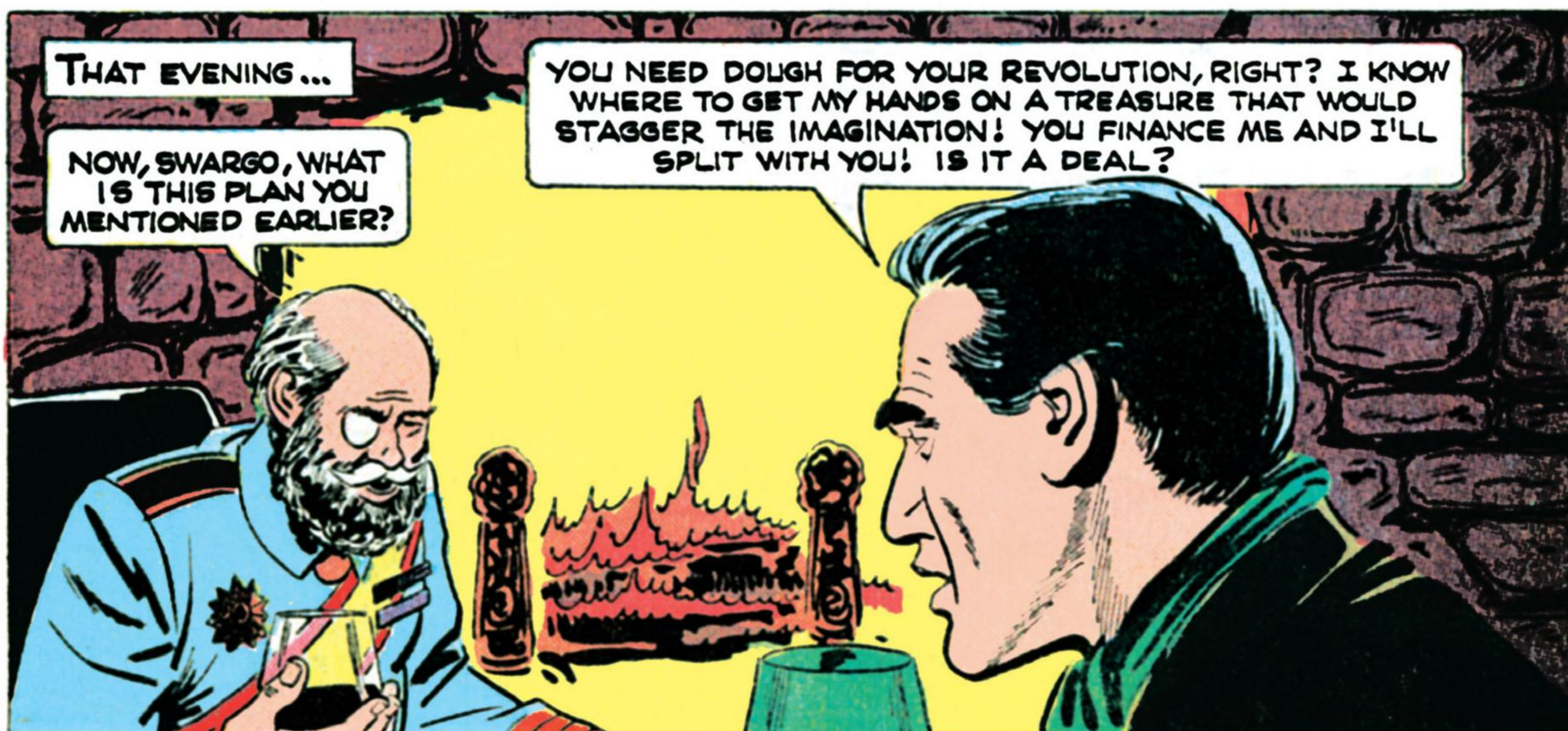




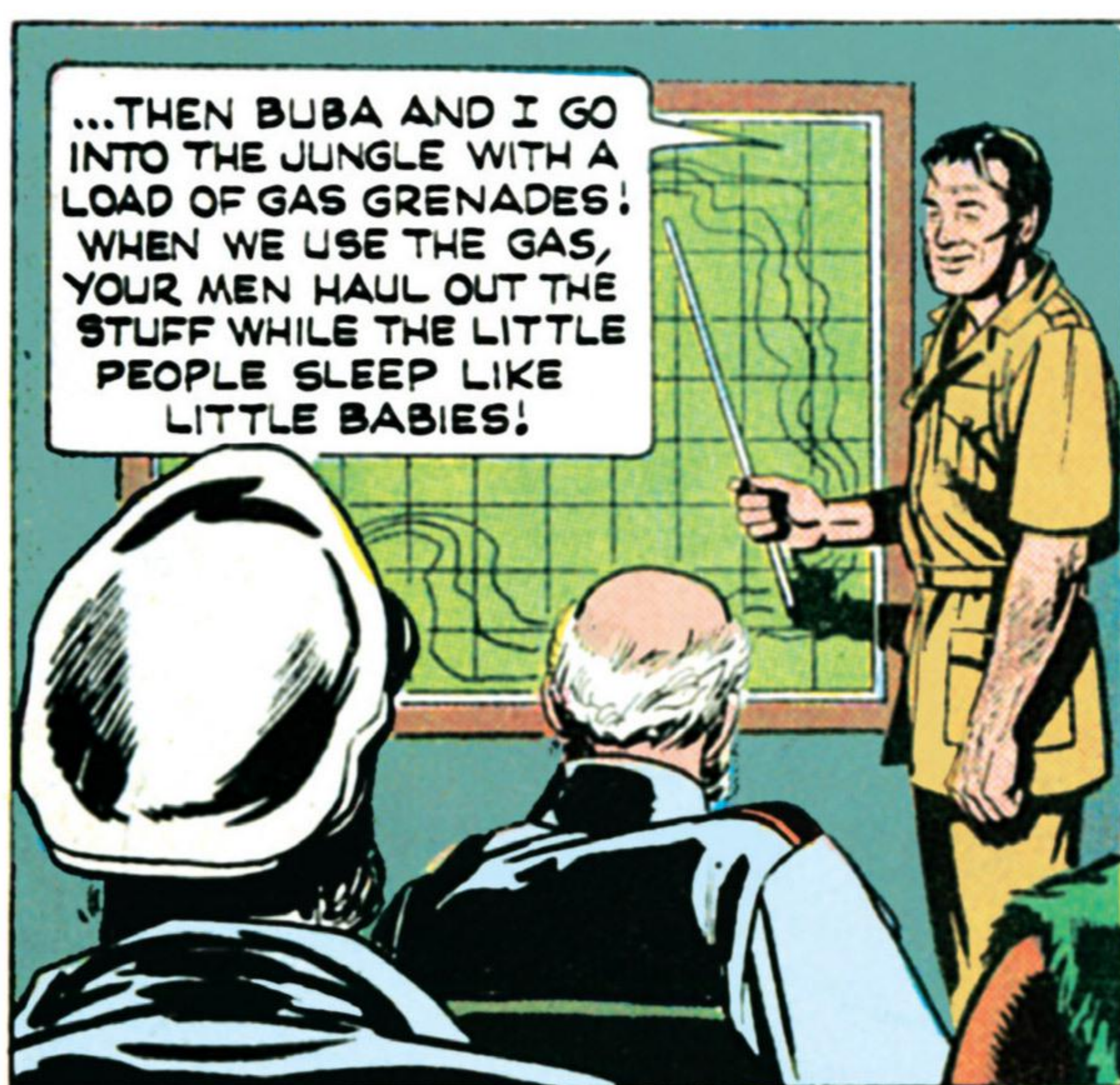




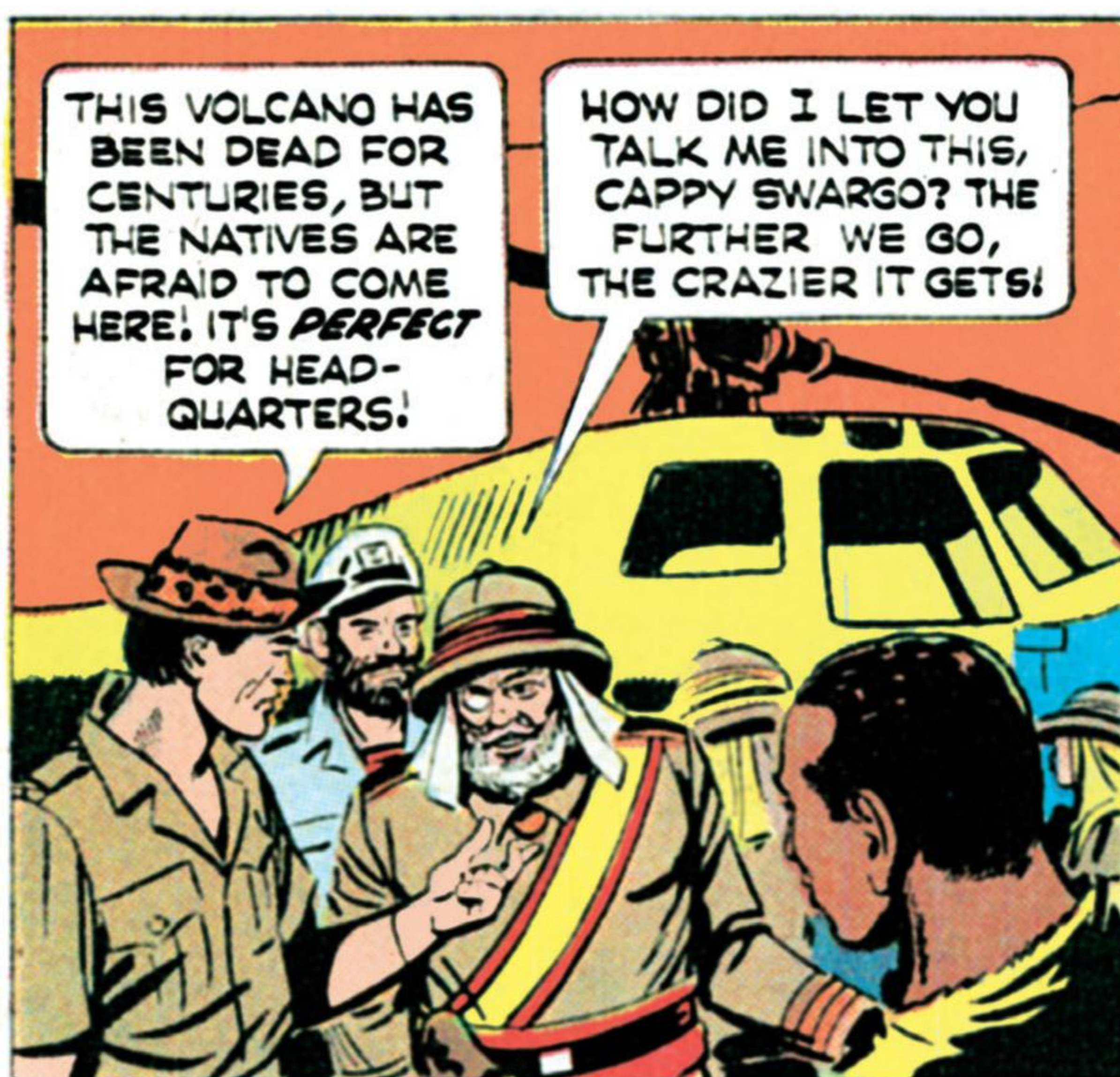
















CAPPY, THESE  
GAS GRENADES,  
THEY PUT PYGMIES  
TO SLEEP?

PERMANENTLY!  
THEY'RE  
**POISON GAS!**



POISON GAS KILL  
**PHANTOM, TOO?**

IT WILL KILL EVERY-  
BODY WITHIN TEN MILES  
WITHOUT A GAS MASK!  
NOW, STOP ASKING  
FOOLISH QUESTIONS!  
BY THE WAY, HOW DO  
I FIND THIS PHANTOM?



YOU NOT FIND PHANTOM! HE FIND YOU!  
JUST CALL! FOLLOW THAT TRAIL!

OKAY! STAY HERE,  
I'LL BE BACK!



**HELP! HELP! HELP!**

I FEEL SILLY  
YELLING FOR  
HELP TO  
EMPTY WOODS!  
BUT THIS IS  
HOW IT HAS  
TO BE!

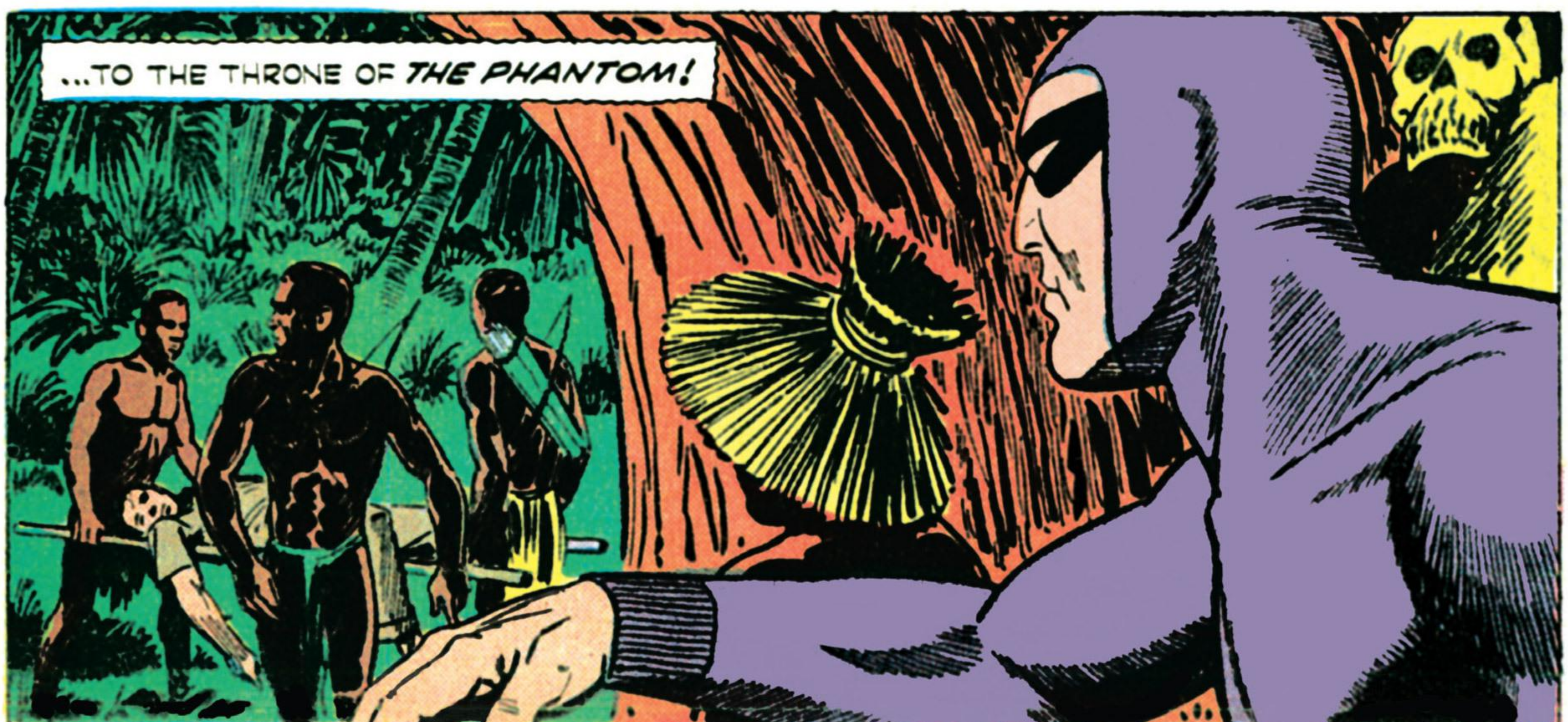
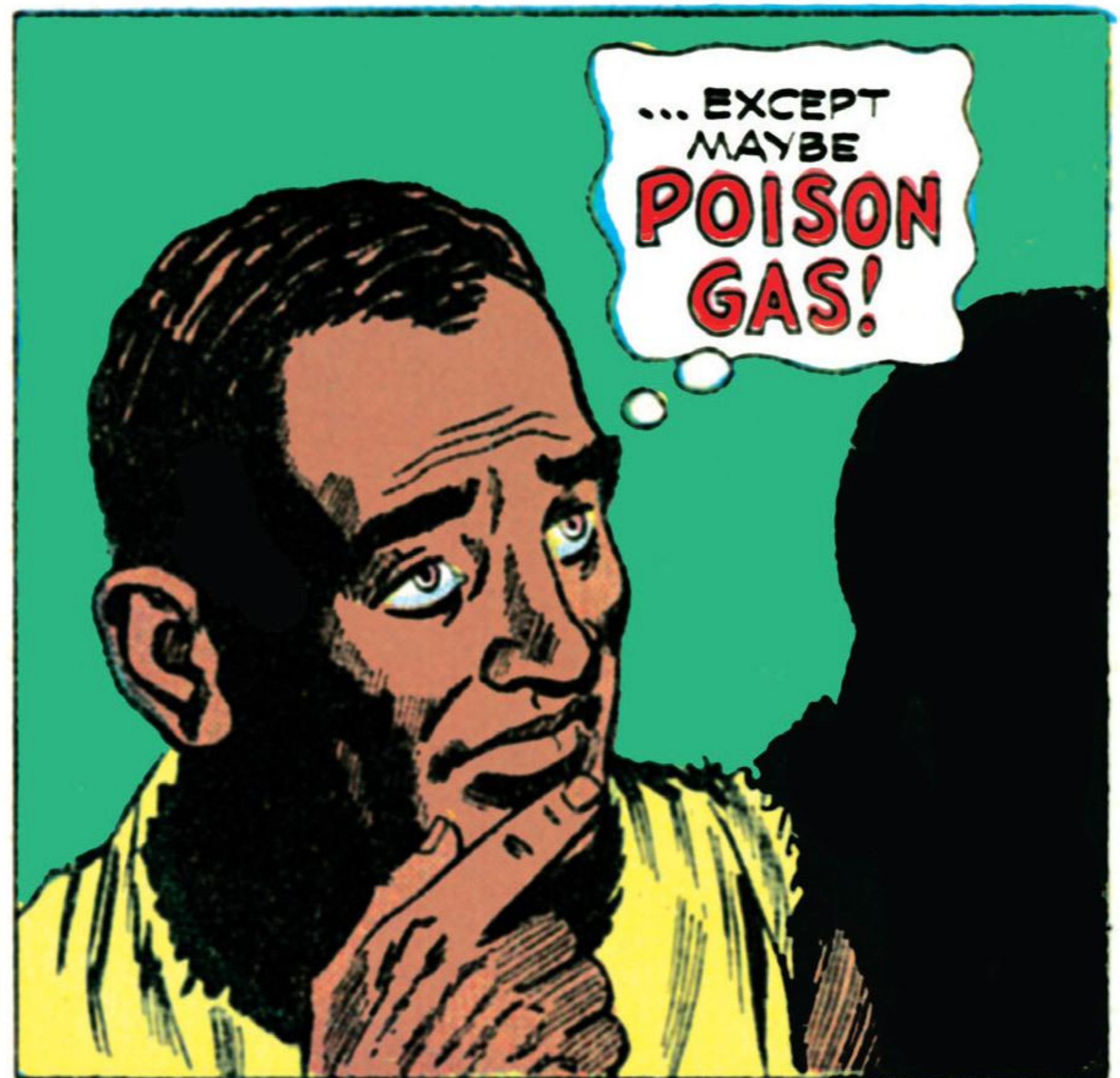


WITHOUT  
A SOUND,  
SWARGO  
IS SUR-  
ROUNDED...

THEY HAVE POISON  
ARROWS! THIS  
BETTER WORK!

HUNGRY! TAKE  
ME TO PHANTOM!  
**HELP!**

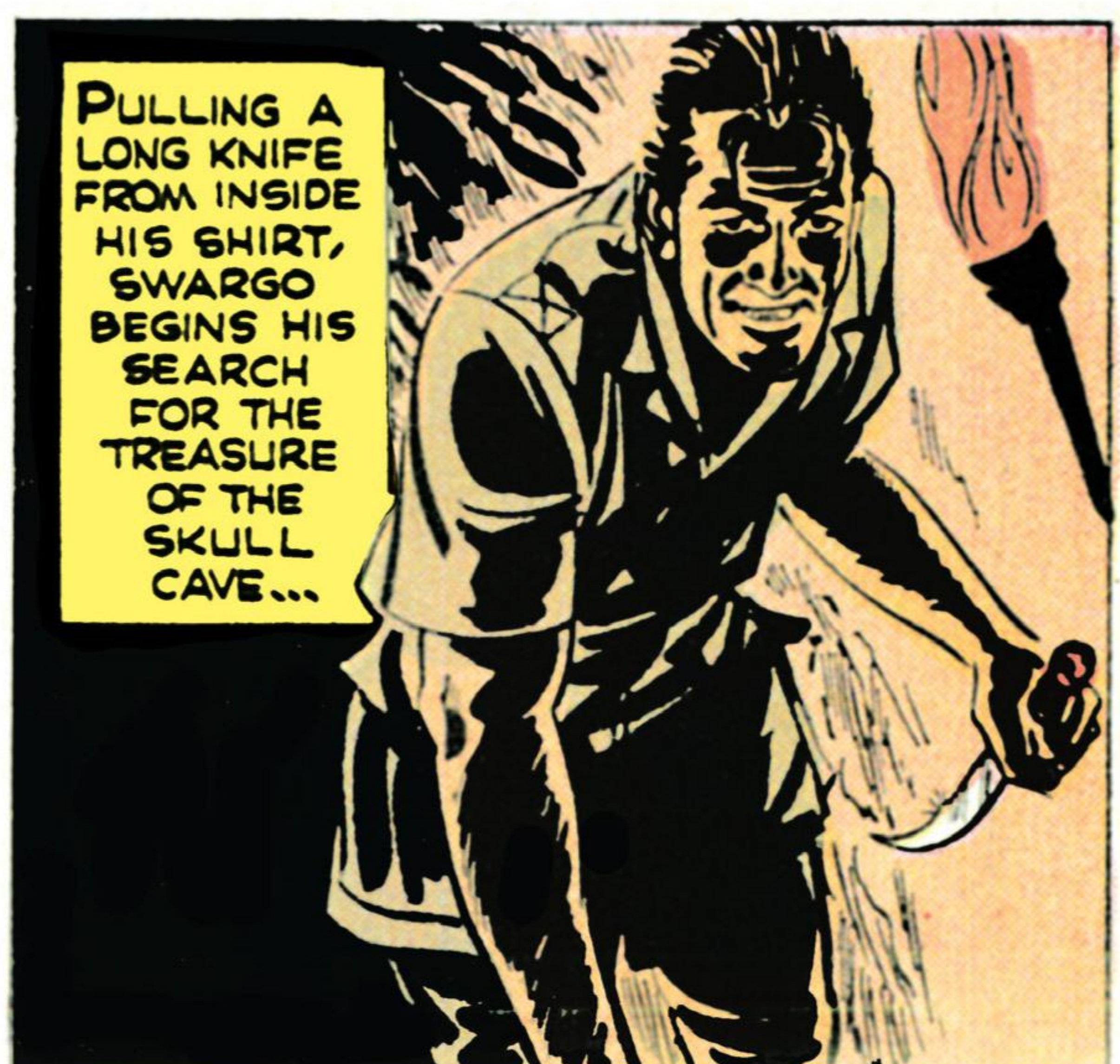
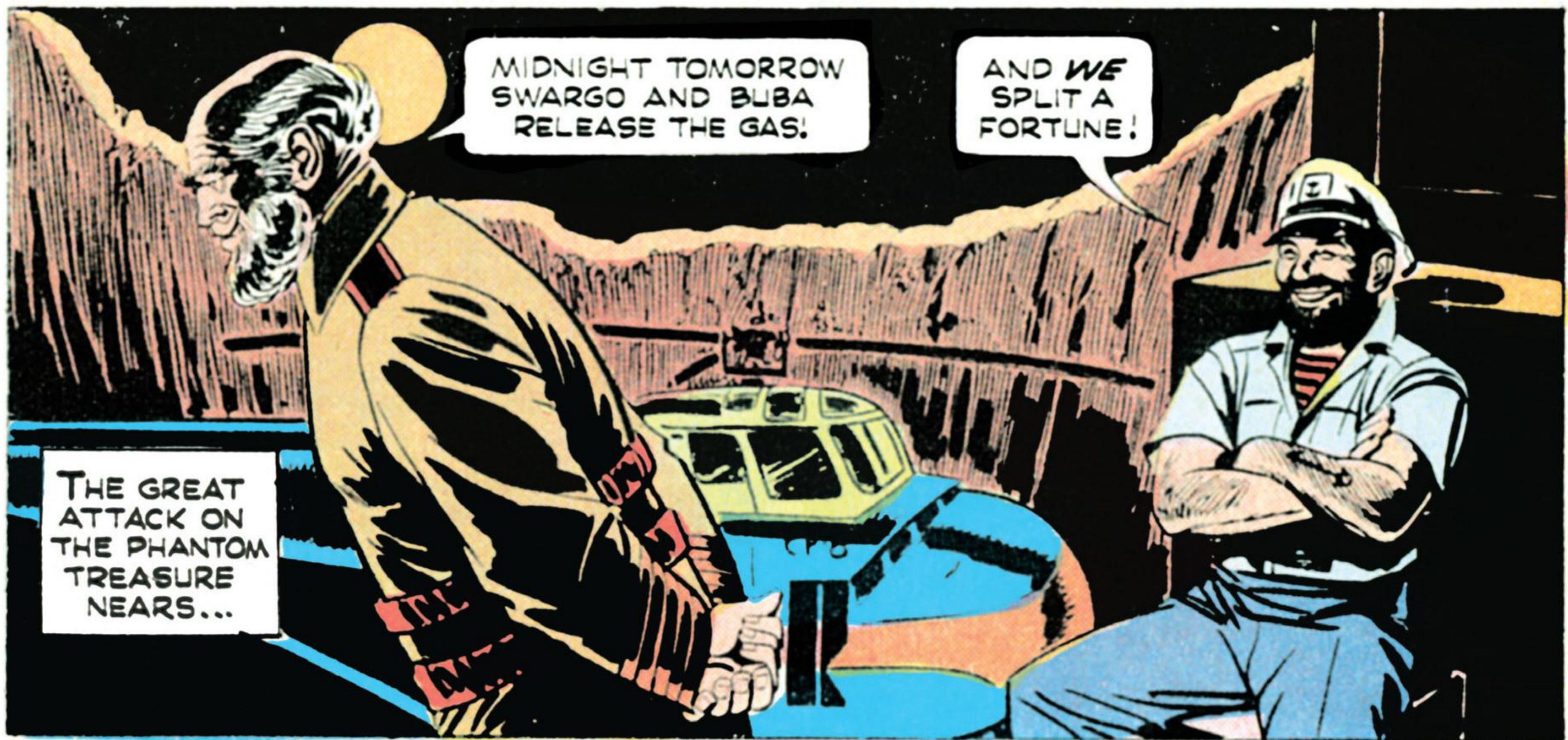




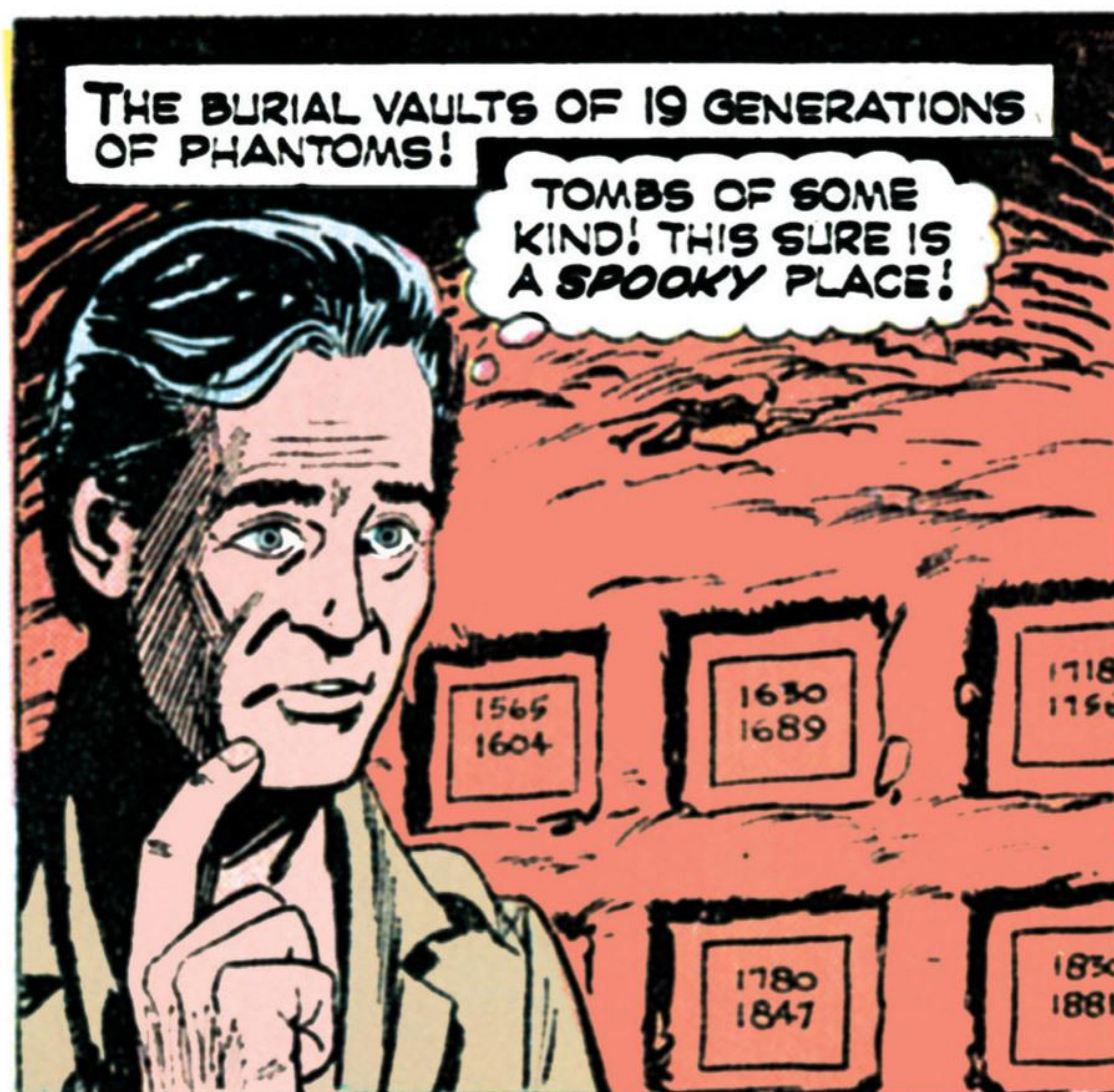
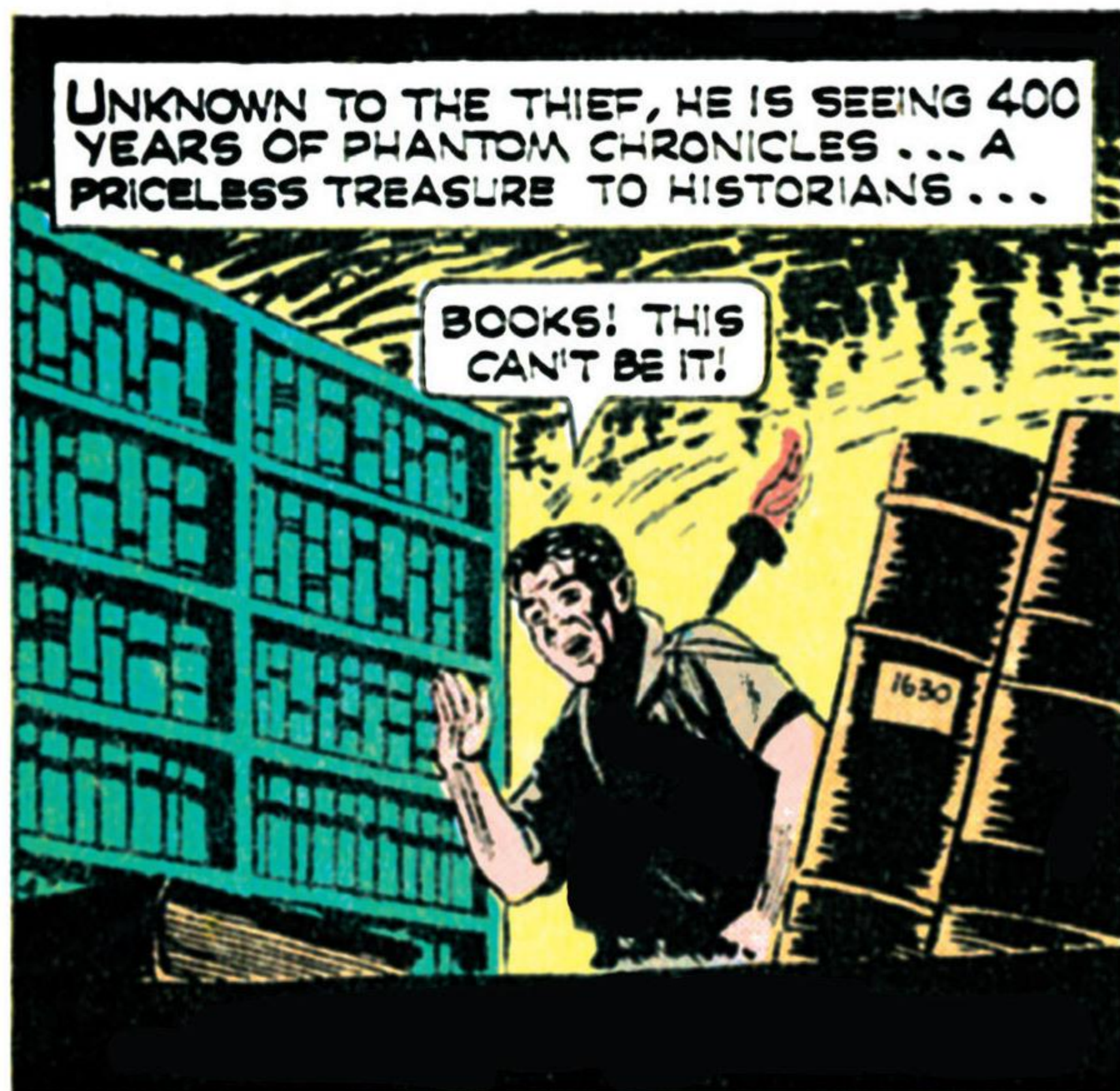
















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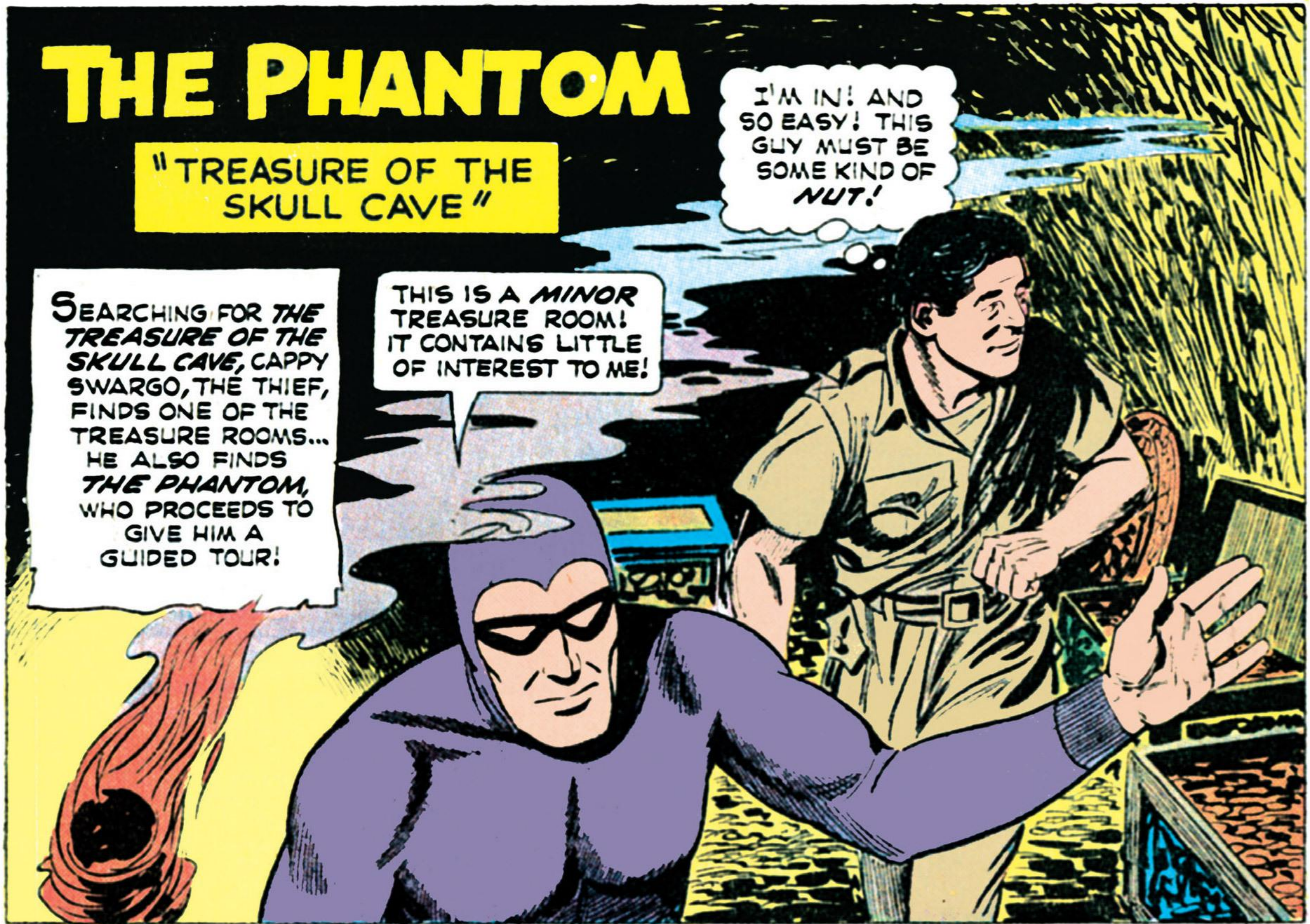
# THE PHANTOM

## "TREASURE OF THE SKULL CAVE"

I'M IN! AND SO EASY! THIS GUY MUST BE SOME KIND OF *NUT!*

SEARCHING FOR THE TREASURE OF THE SKULL CAVE, CAPPY SWARGO, THE THIEF, FINDS ONE OF THE TREASURE ROOMS... HE ALSO FINDS THE PHANTOM, WHO PROCEEDS TO GIVE HIM A GUIDED TOUR!

THIS IS A *MINOR* TREASURE ROOM! IT CONTAINS LITTLE OF INTEREST TO ME!

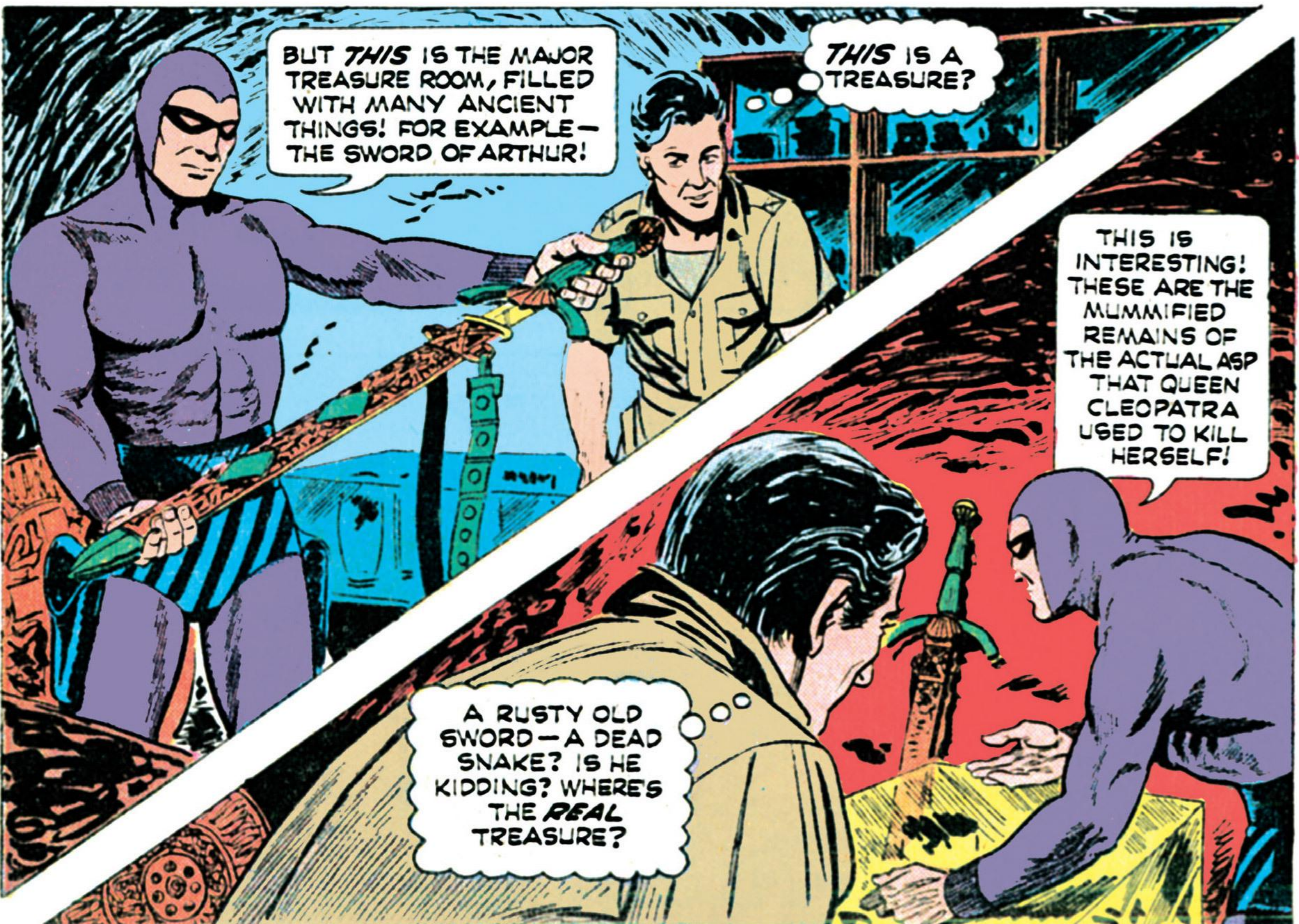


BUT *THIS* IS THE MAJOR TREASURE ROOM, FILLED WITH MANY ANCIENT THINGS! FOR EXAMPLE—THE SWORD OF ARTHUR!

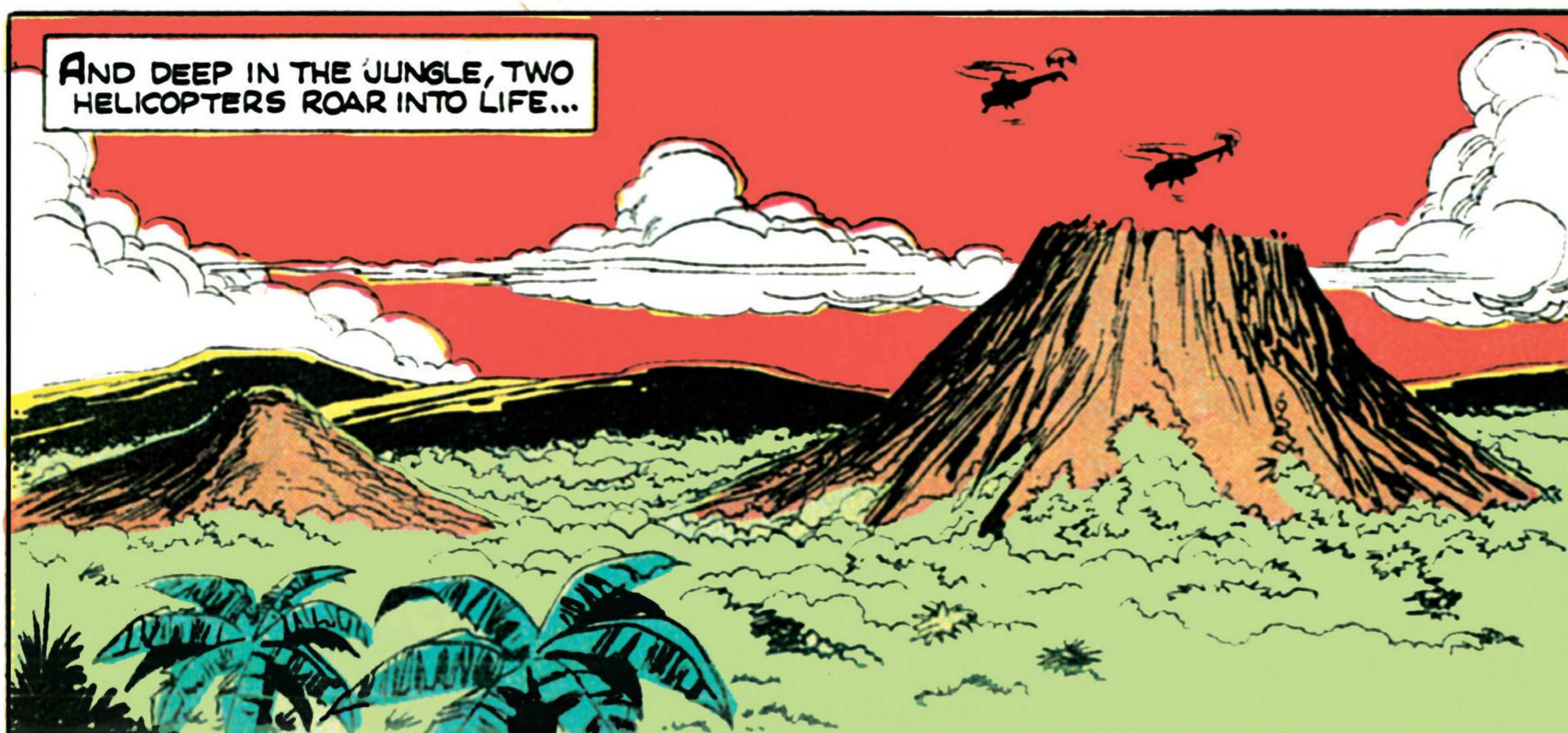
*THIS* IS A TREASURE?

THIS IS INTERESTING! THESE ARE THE MUMMIFIED REMAINS OF THE ACTUAL ASP THAT QUEEN CLEOPATRA USED TO KILL HERSELF!

A RUSTY OLD SWORD—A DEAD SNAKE? IS HE KIDDING? WHERE'S THE *REAL* TREASURE?



















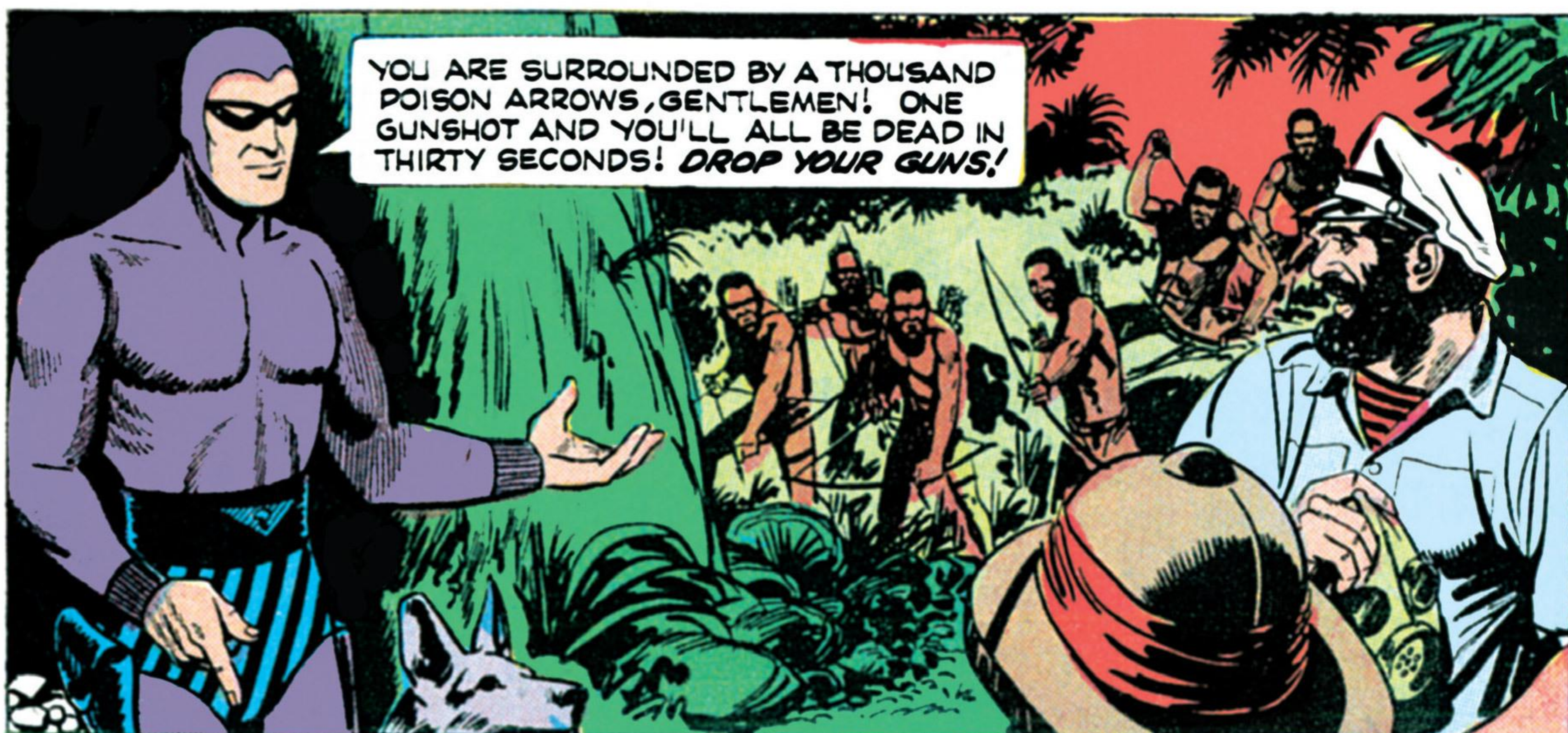




THE TREES OF THE JUNGLE TREMBLE WHEN THE PHANTOM IS ANGRY... OLD JUNGLE SAYING!



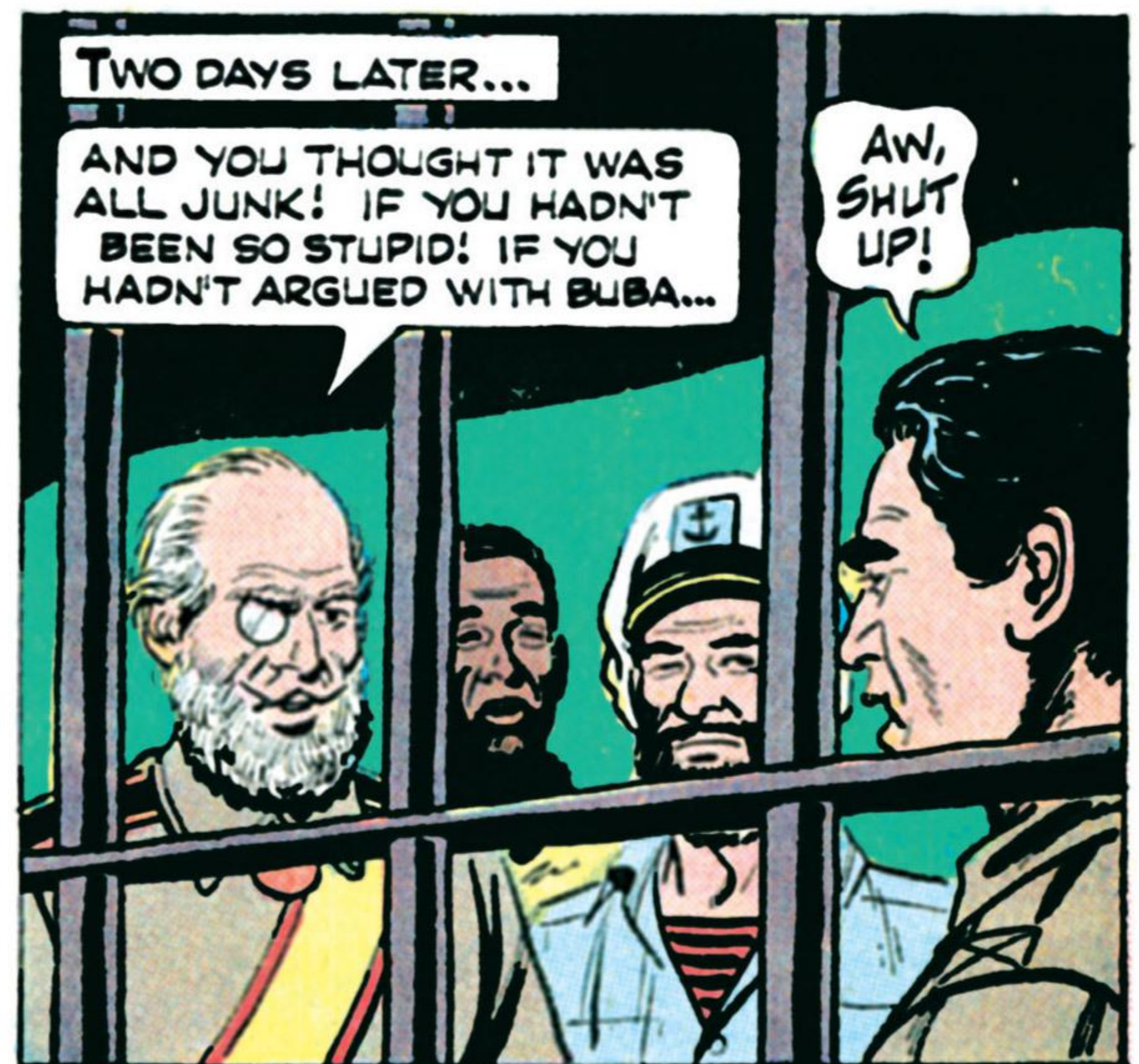




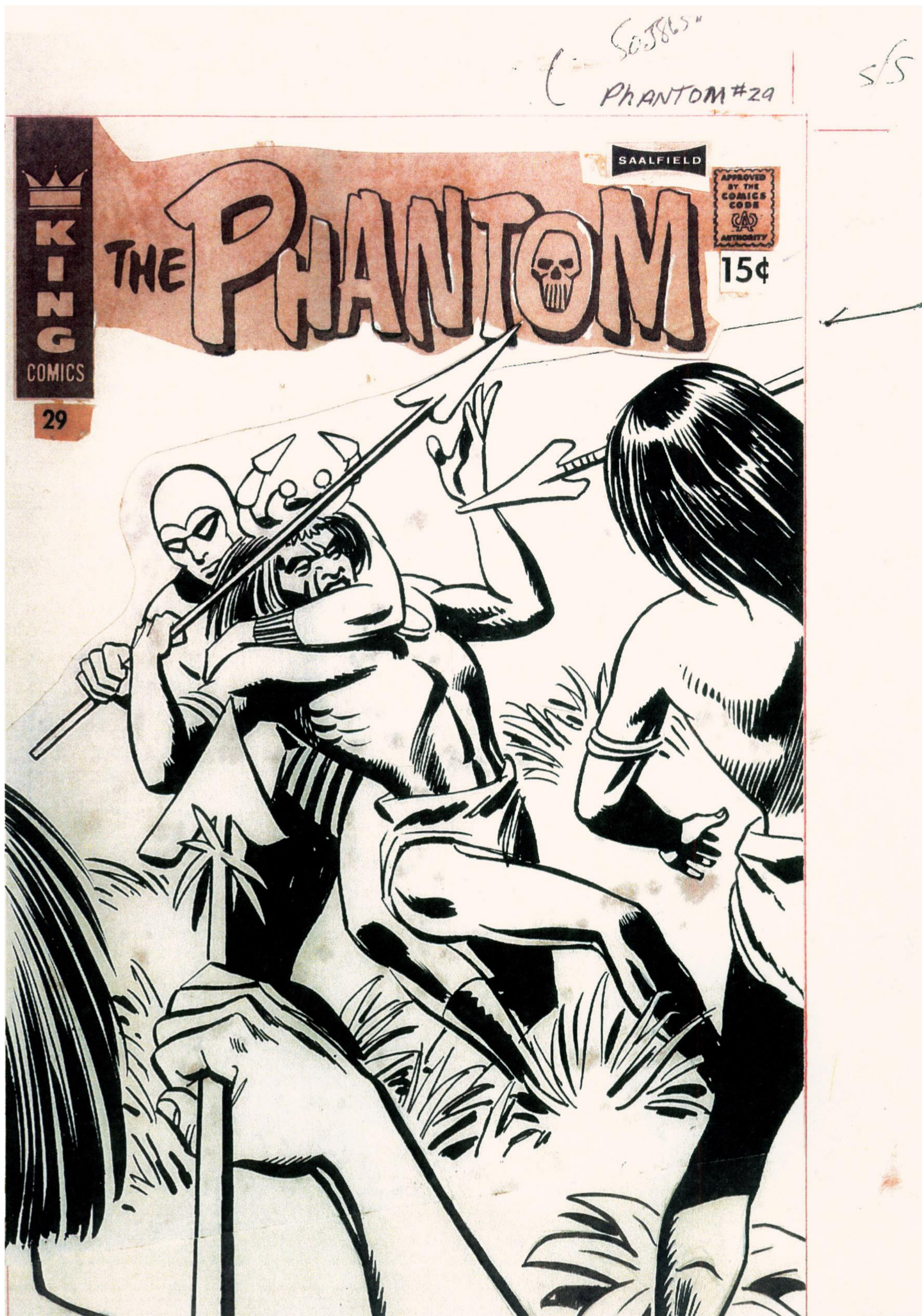












Above: unused cover production art for *The Phantom* #29.



# THE PHANTOM



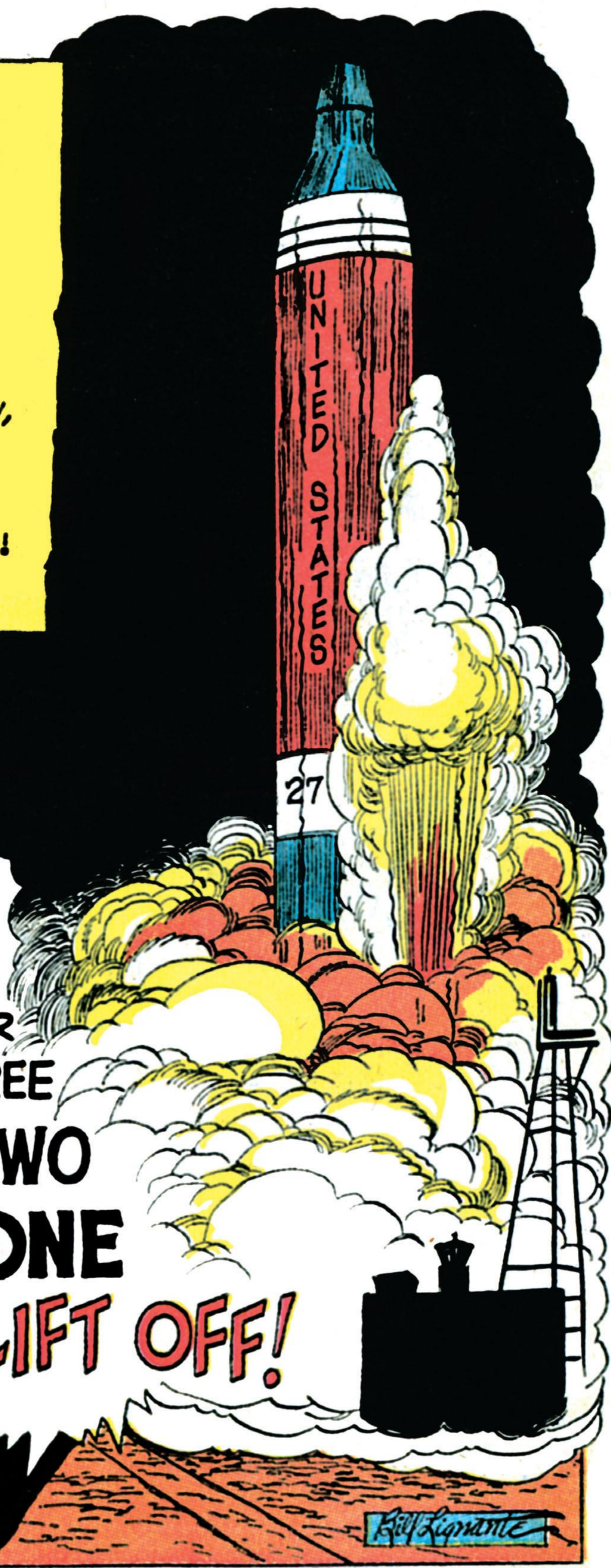


# The PHANTOM THE ASTRONAUT AND THE PIRATES

**D**EEP IN THE BENGALI JUNGLE, THE PHANTOM LISTENS INTENTLY, AS SIX THOUSAND MILES AWAY, THE EARTH SHUDDERS AND A GREAT ROCKET BEGINS HER HERCULEAN FIGHT AGAINST THE GRAVITATIONAL PULL OF EARTH!

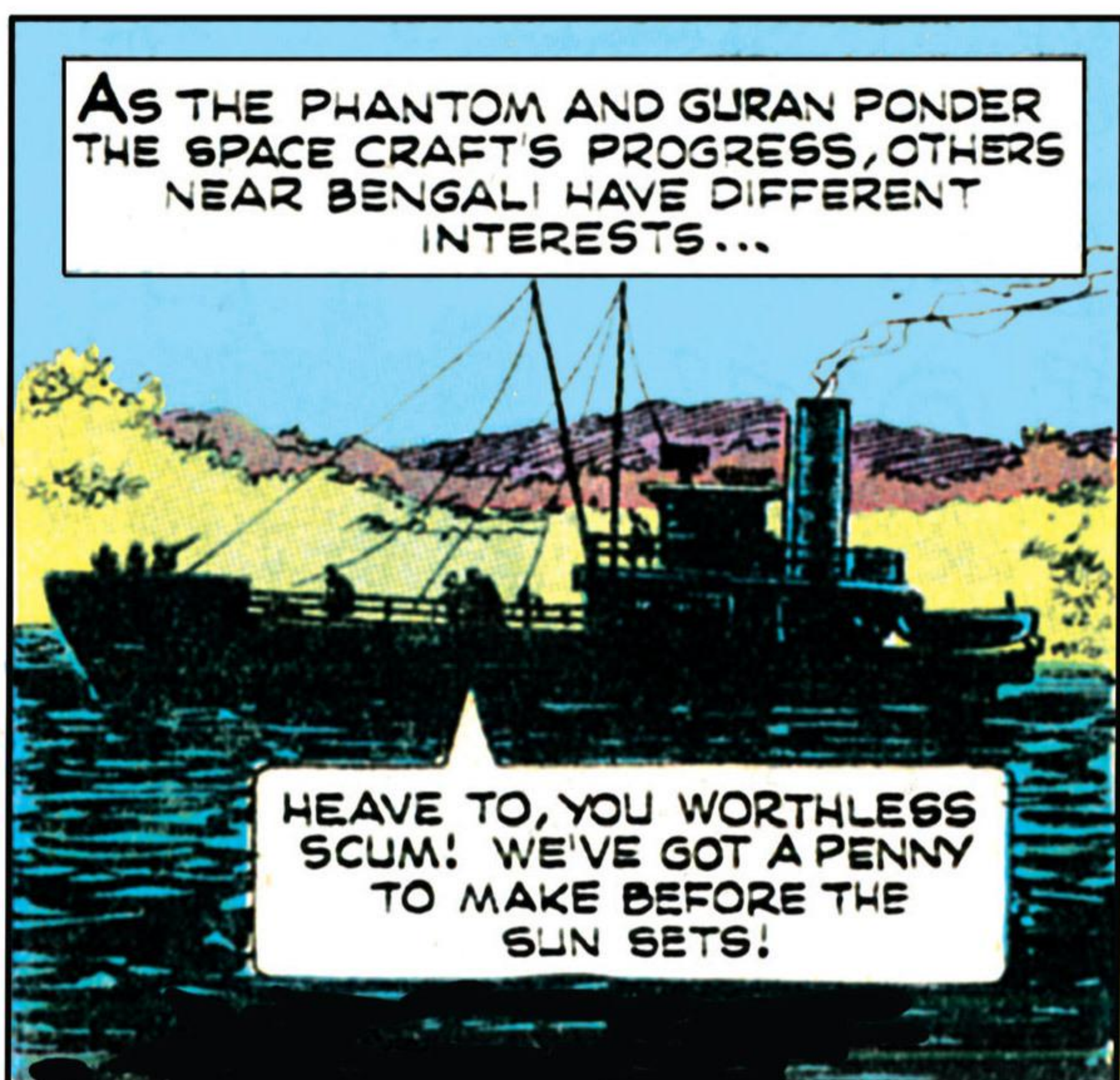
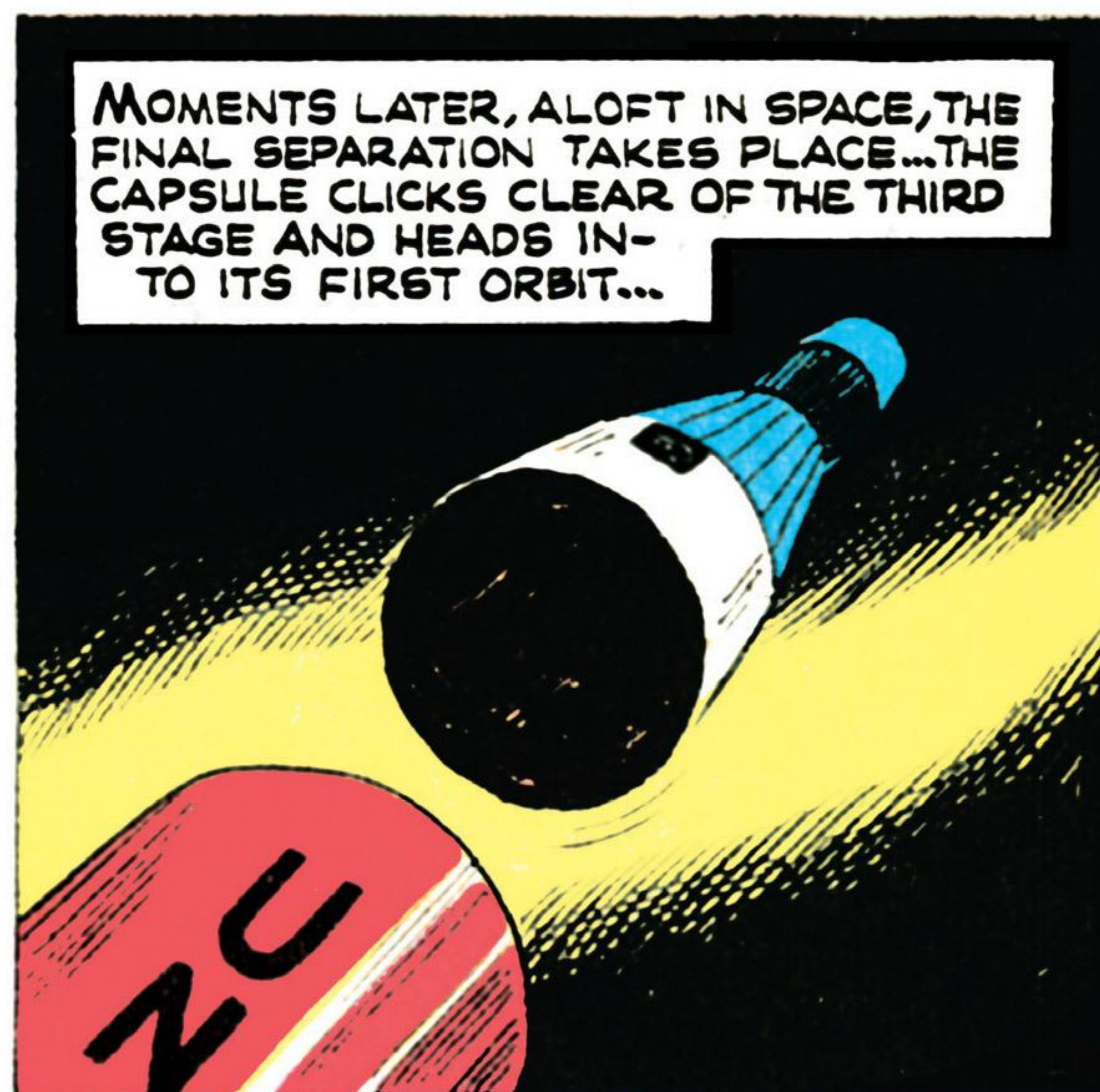
WE ARE IN THE FINAL  
COUNTDOWN OF WHAT COULD BE  
MANKIND'S MOST REMARKABLE  
VOYAGE... *AN ORBIT AROUND  
THE MOON!* COL. NELSON IS  
READY... ALL STAGES ARE GO...  
THE COUNT IS —

SEVEN  
SIX  
FIVE  
FOUR  
THREE  
TWO  
ONE  
**LIFT OFF!**

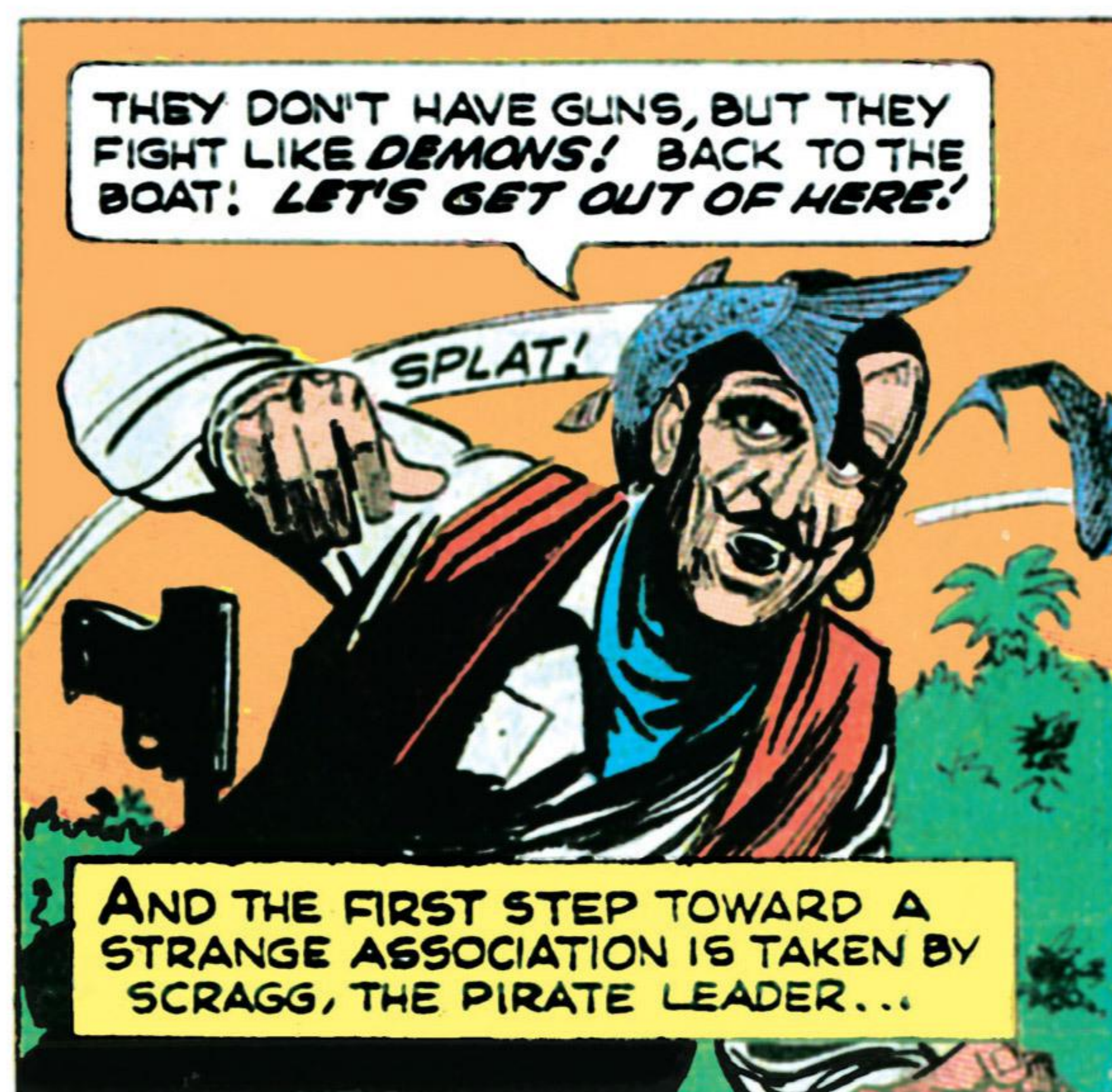
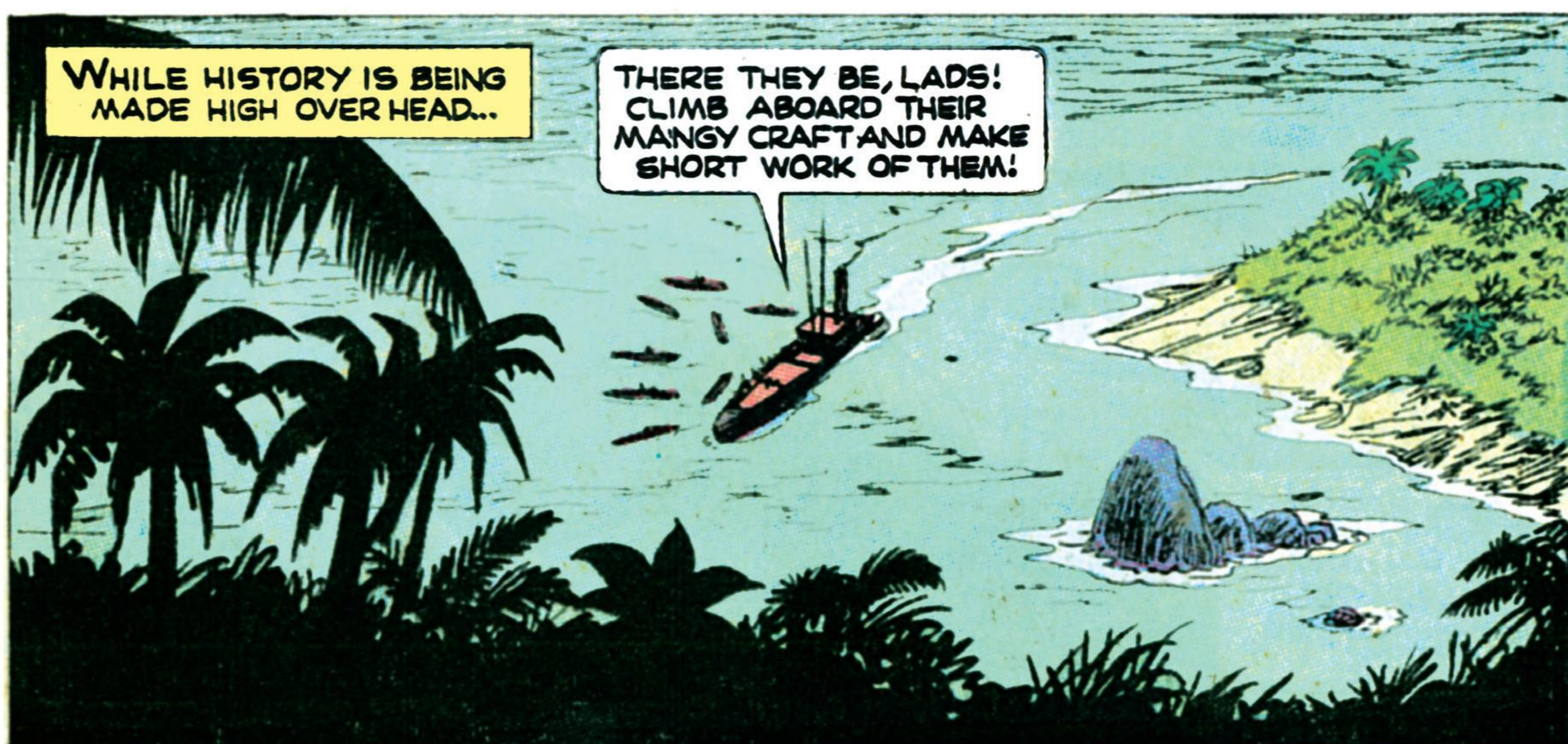
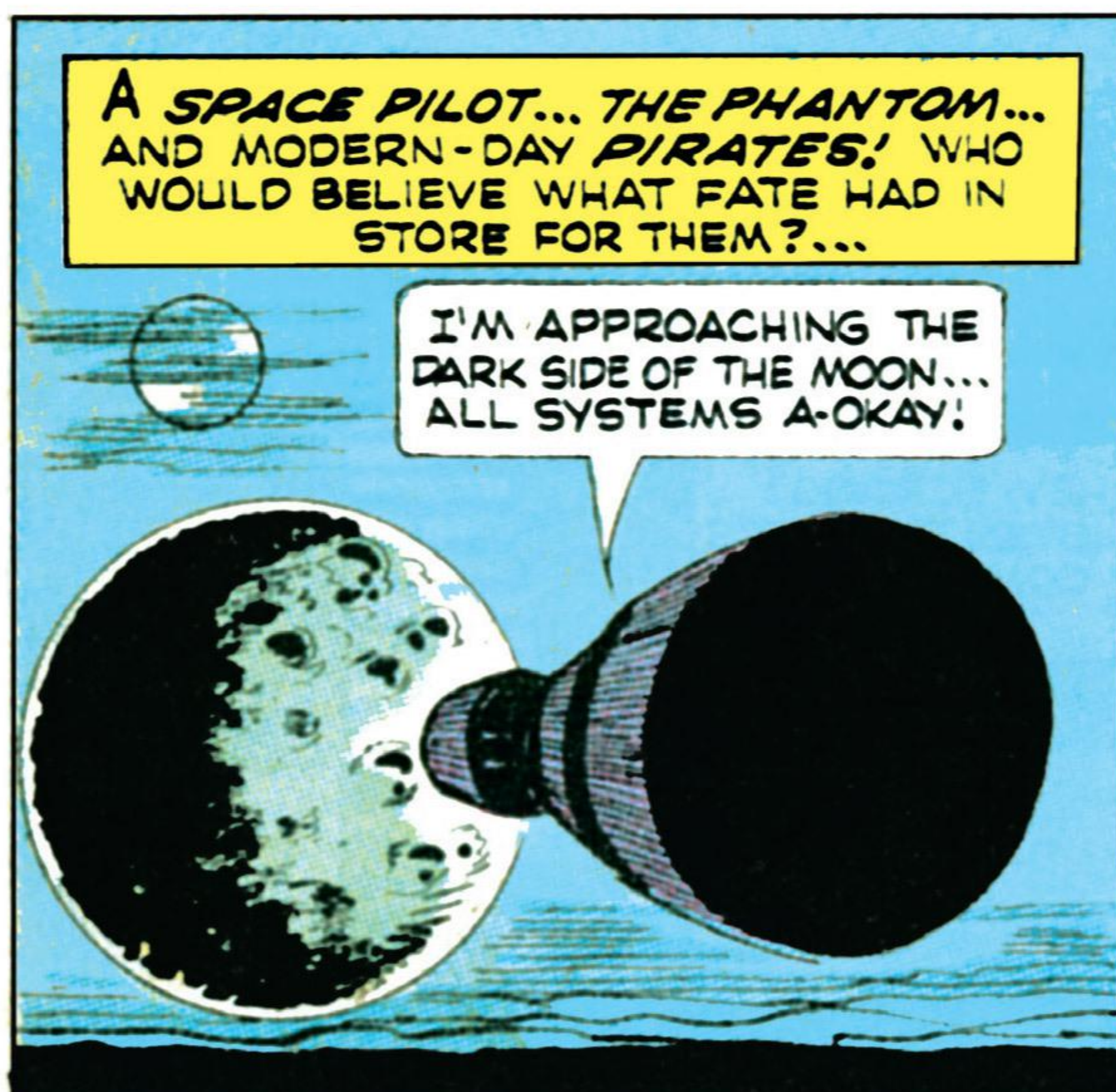


Bill Sigmund

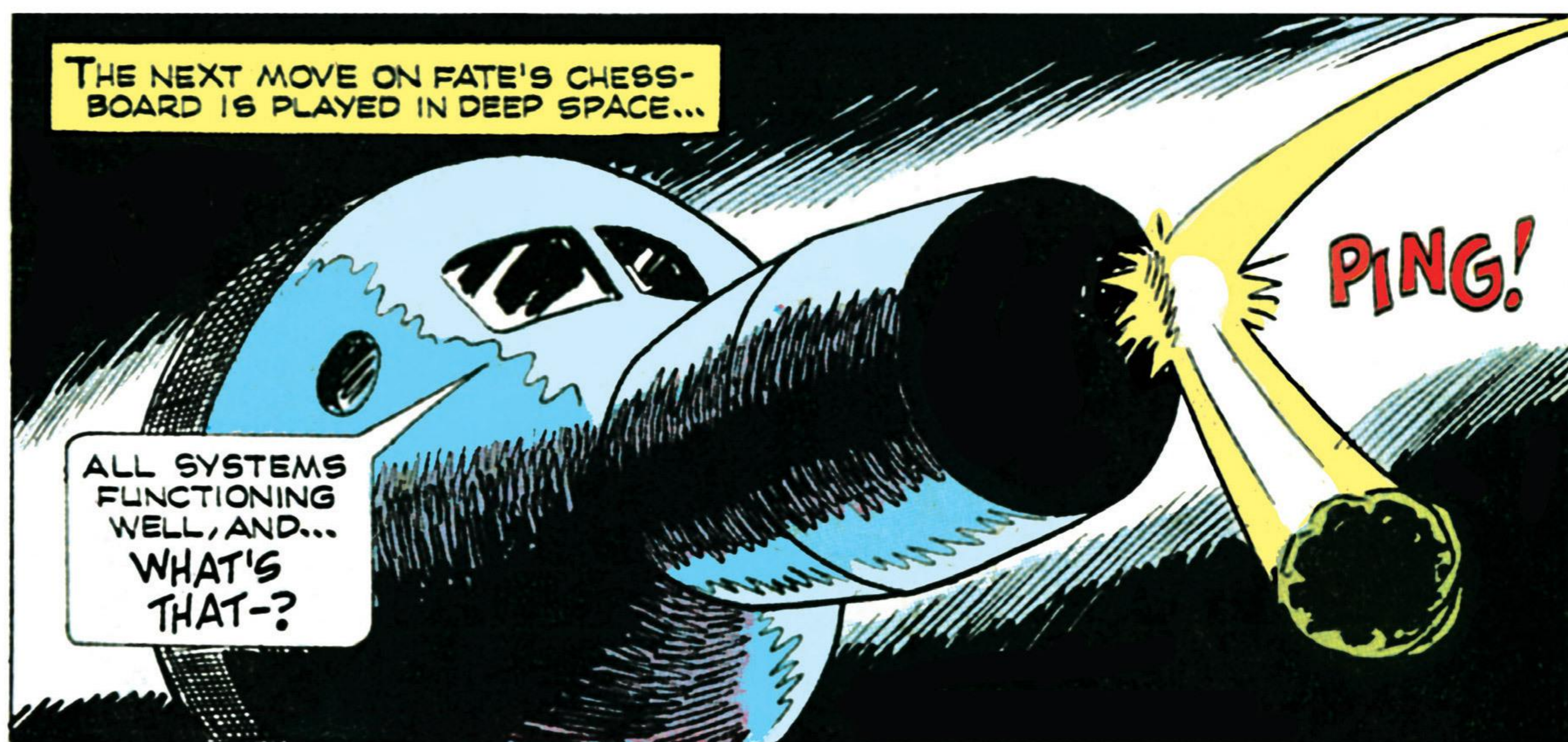
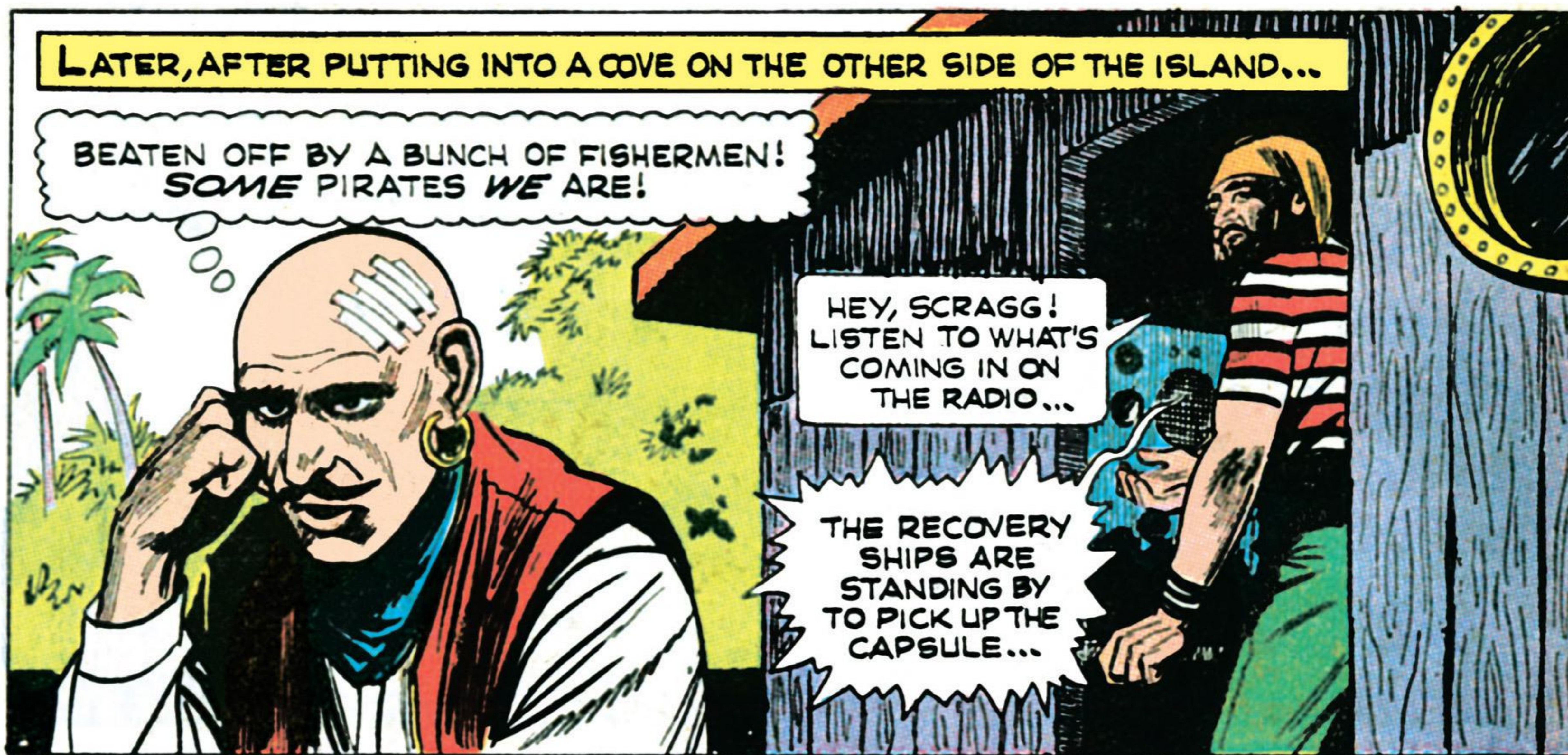






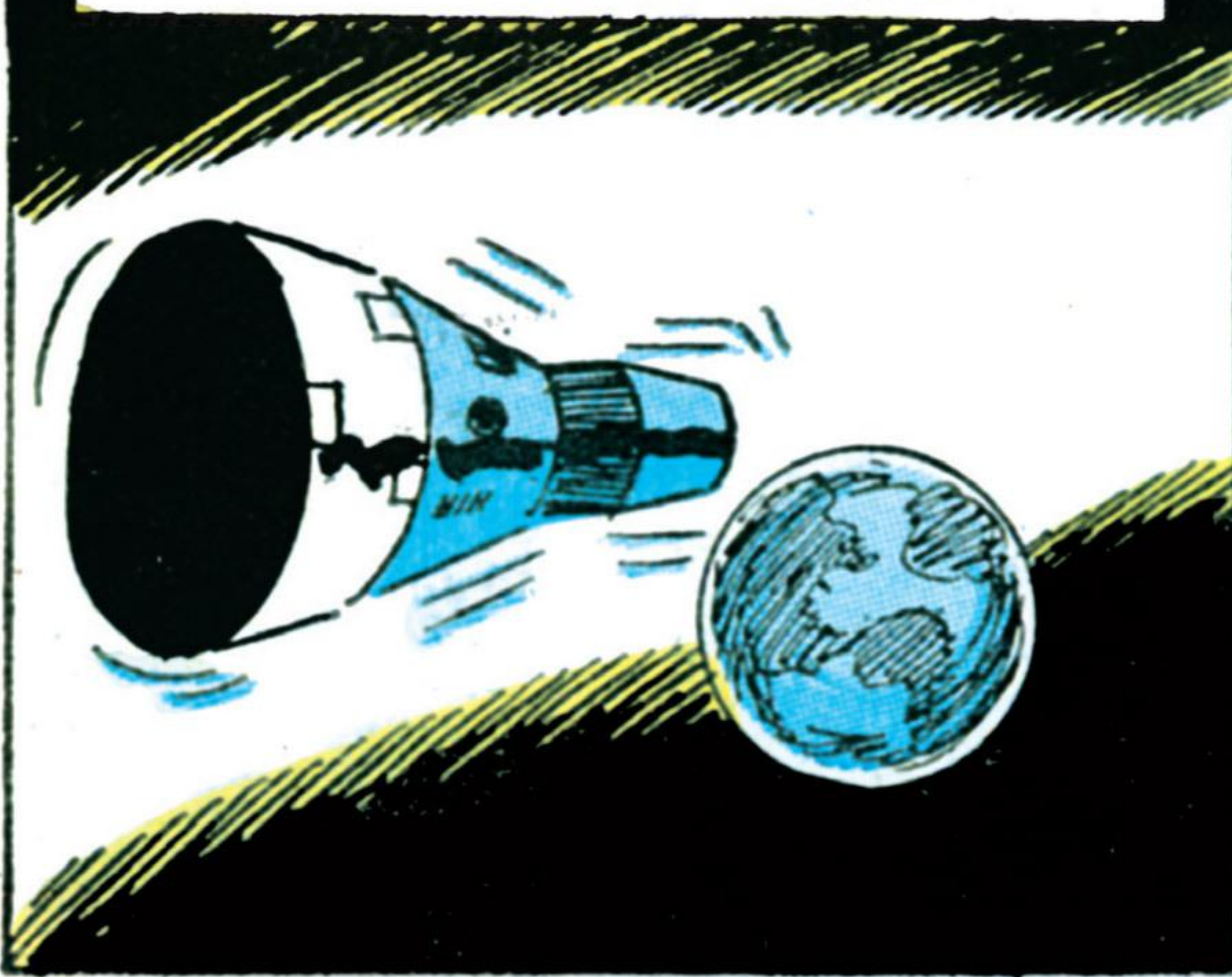








ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND MILES IN SPACE, THE TINY CAPSULE PLUMMETS WILDLY TOWARD EARTH...



WHILE ON A BEAUTIFUL SERENE ISLAND, SCRAGG'S PIRATES WITNESS A STRANGE SIGHT...

A LION AND TIGER PLAYING TOGETHER... CATCHING FISH! I SAW THEM!

WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS THIS?

SHOW ME!



WE MUST WARN GHOST WHO WALKS!



AND SOON JUNGLE DRUMS SPEAK TO THE PHANTOM...

STRANGERS... ON EDEN... WITH GUNS...

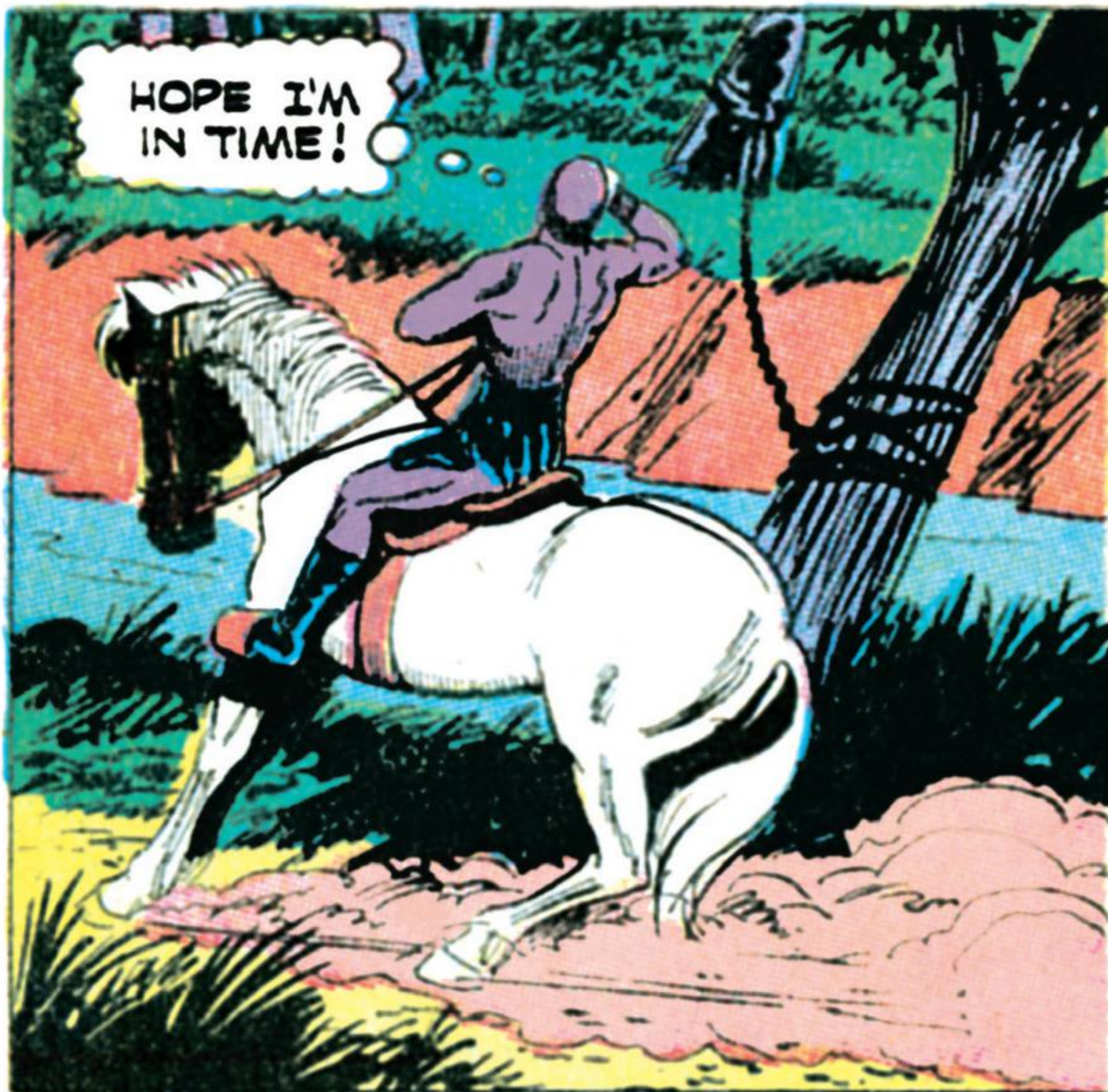
NO WORD HAS YET BEEN HEARD FROM COL. NELSON!



CAN'T HAVE ANY KILLING ON EDEN! I'LL HAVE TO CATCH UP WITH THE SPACE FLIGHT LATER!







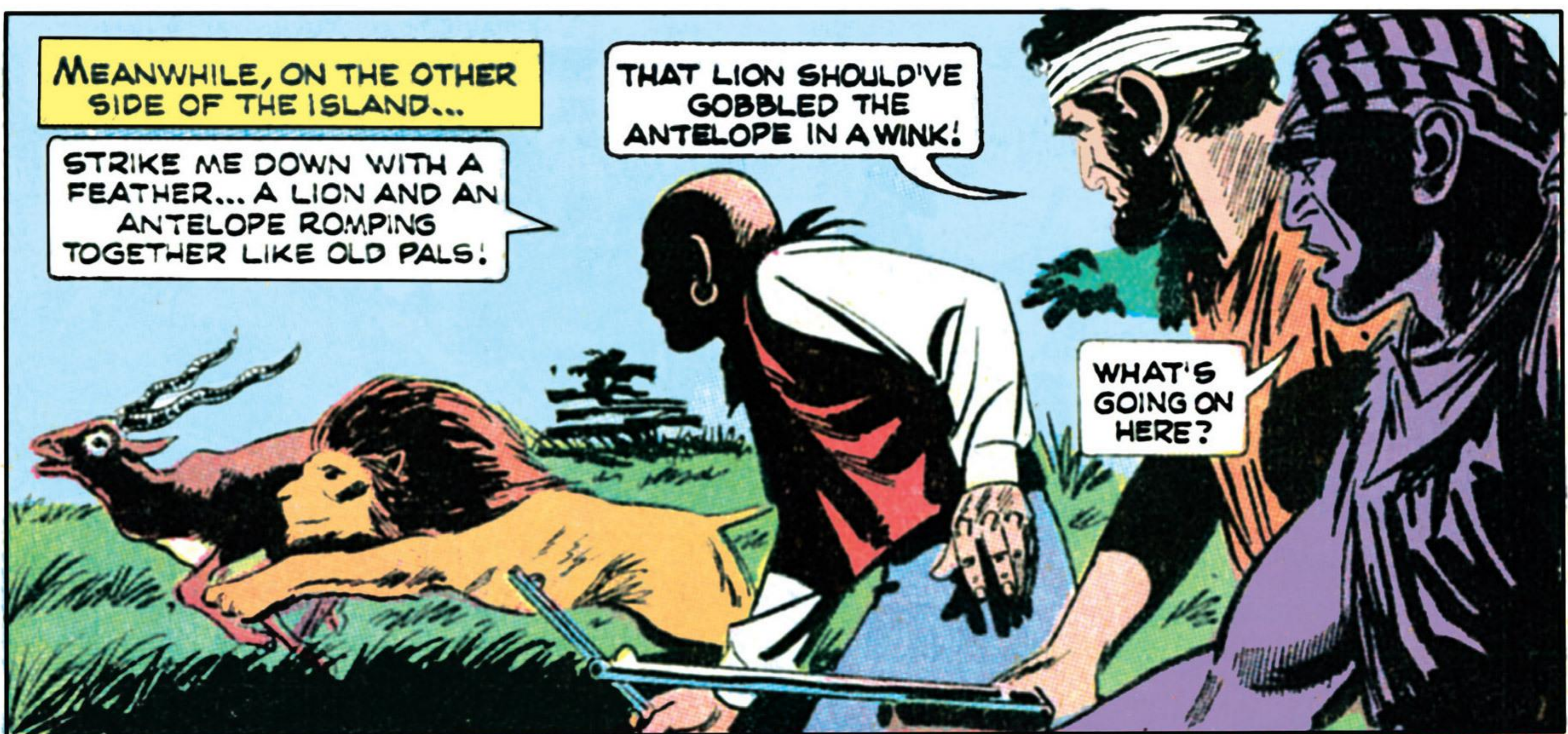
HOPE I'M  
IN TIME!



HAND-OVER-HAND  
HE SWINGS ACROSS  
A RIVER FILLED  
WITH THE DEADLY  
PIRANHA FISH...

THOSE BIG CATS  
HAVE NEVER  
KNOWN THE  
TASTE OF  
BLOOD...

...THEY MUST  
**NEVER**  
KNOW IT!



MEANWHILE, ON THE OTHER  
SIDE OF THE ISLAND...

STRIKE ME DOWN WITH A  
FEATHER... A LION AND AN  
ANTELOPE ROMPING  
TOGETHER LIKE OLD PALS!

THAT LION SHOULD'VE  
GOBBLED THE  
ANTELOPE IN A WINK!

WHAT'S  
GOING ON  
HERE?



THAT ANTELOPE  
WILL MAKE A  
TASTY DINNER  
FOR... **WHAT?!**

THUMP!

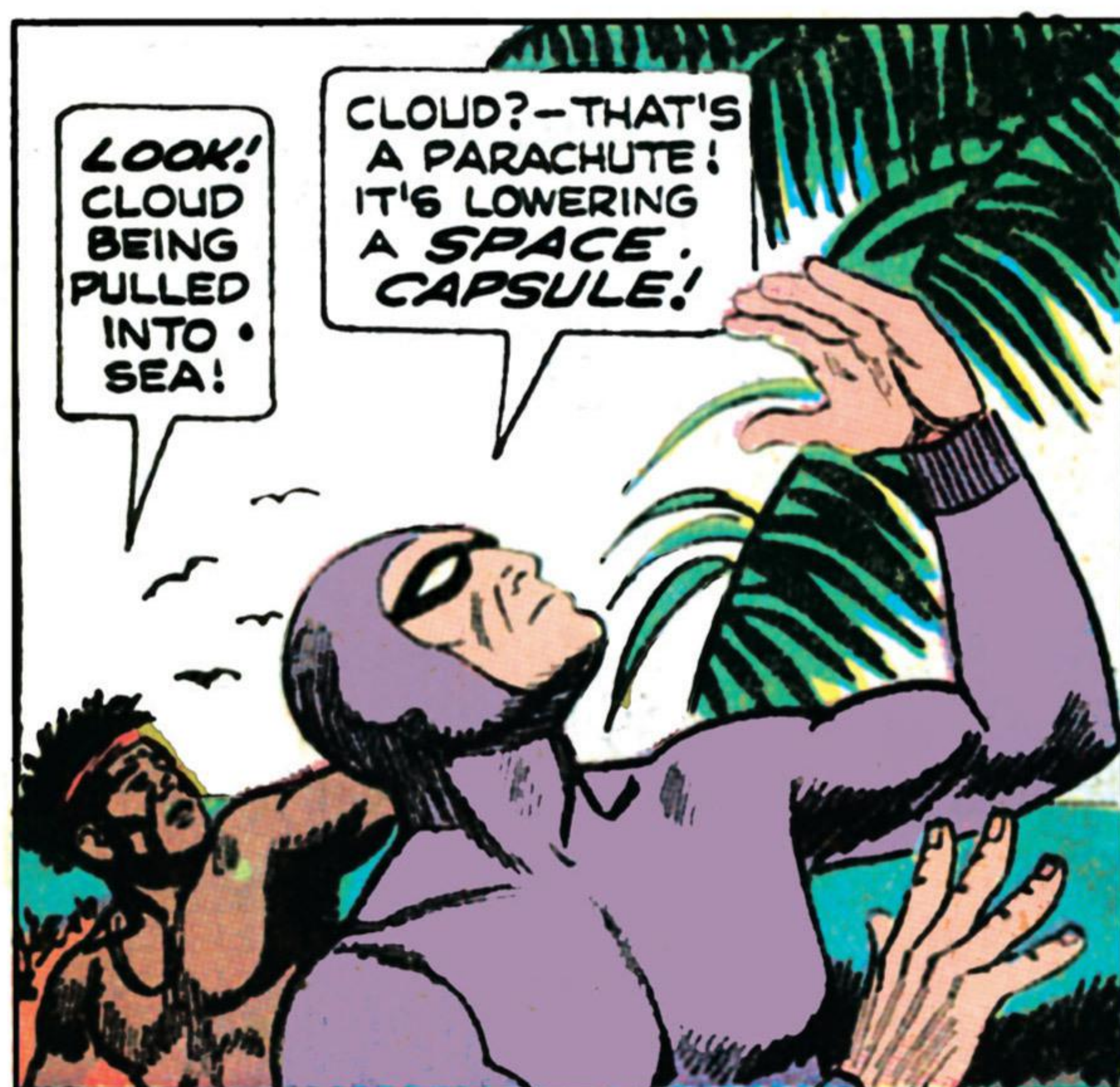


WHERE'D THIS ARROW  
COME FROM? I DON'T  
SEE A SOUL AROUND!

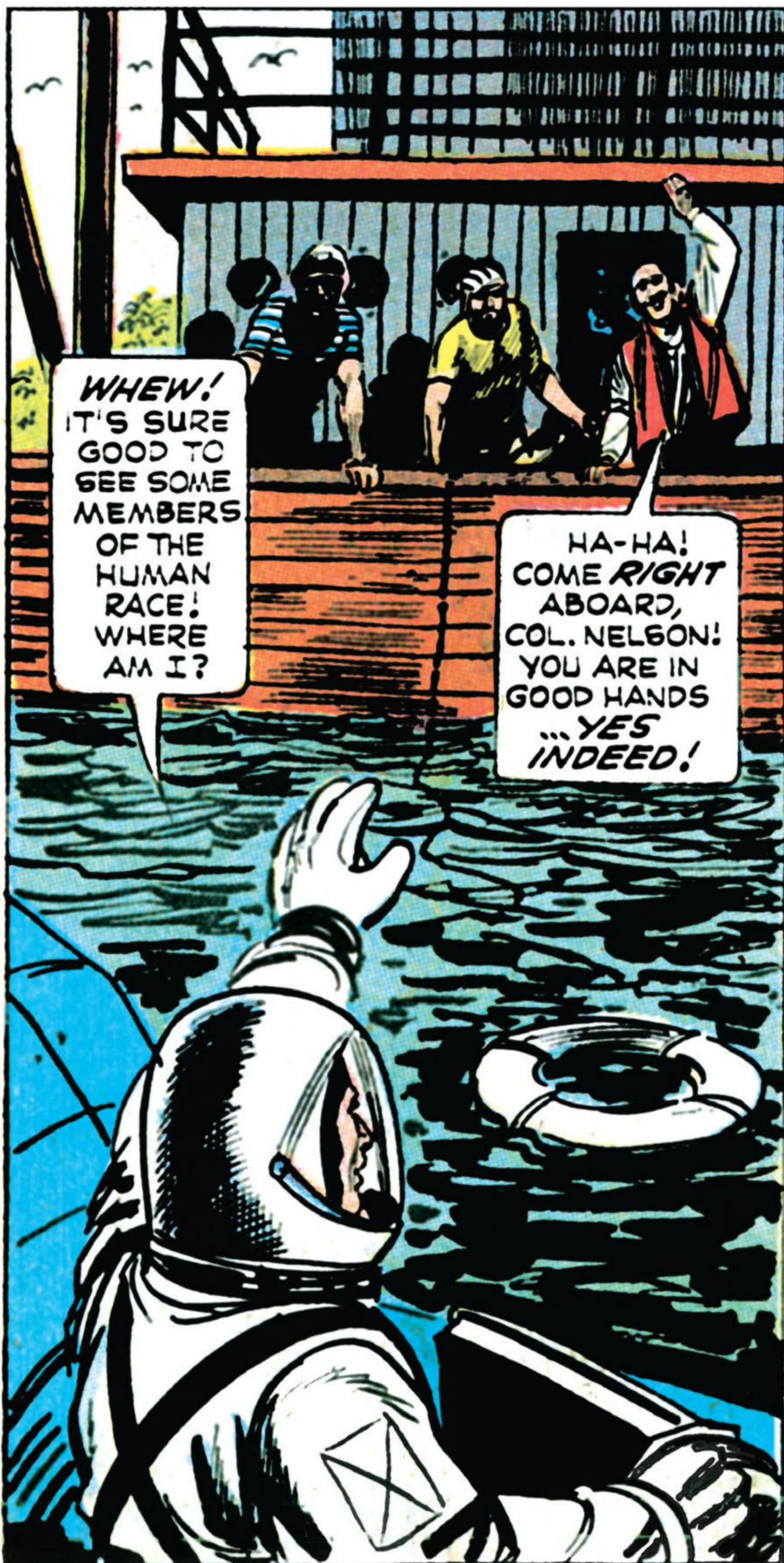
IT'S A  
PYGMY  
POISON  
ARROW!

LET'S GET  
OUT OF  
HERE  
**FAST!**

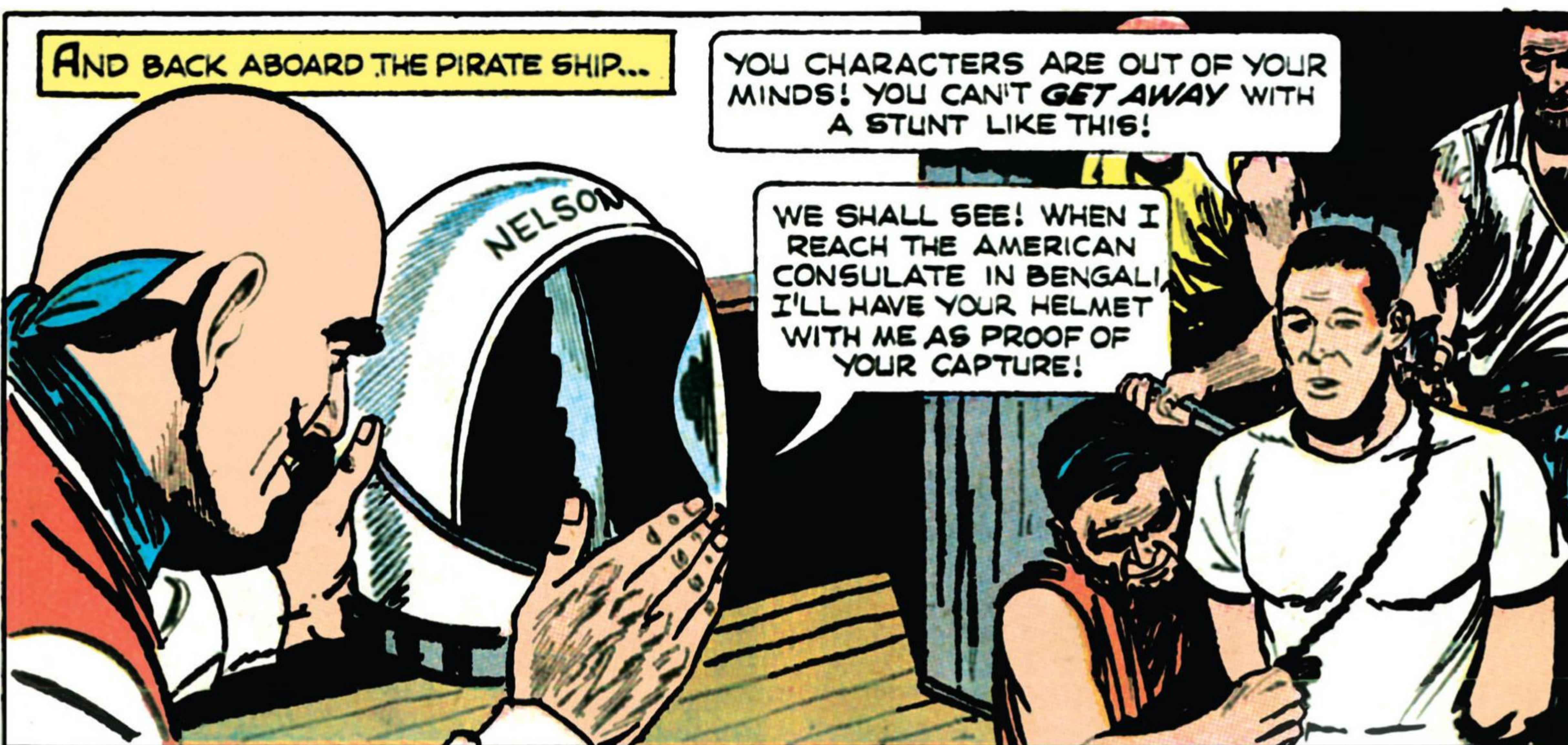
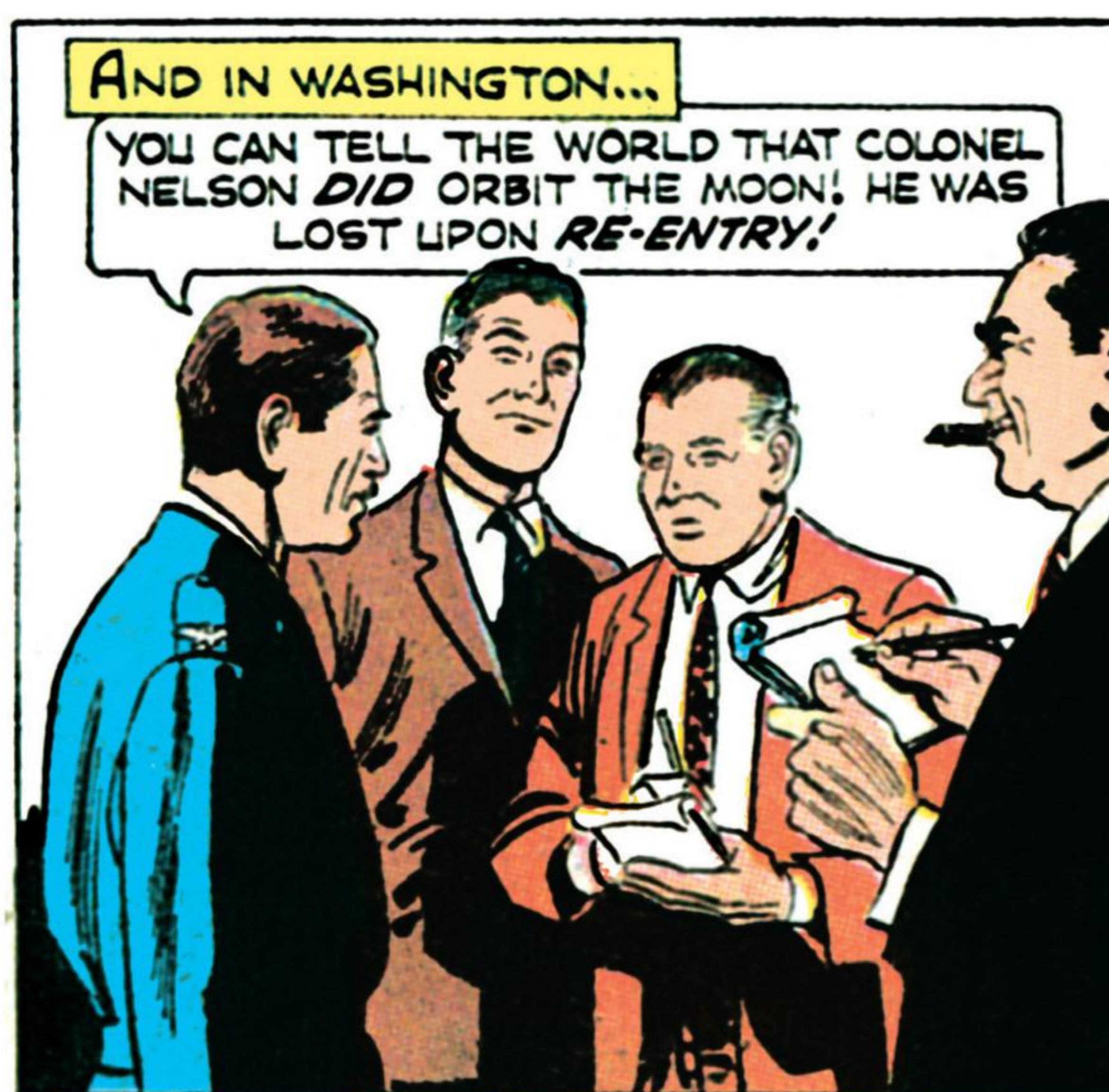
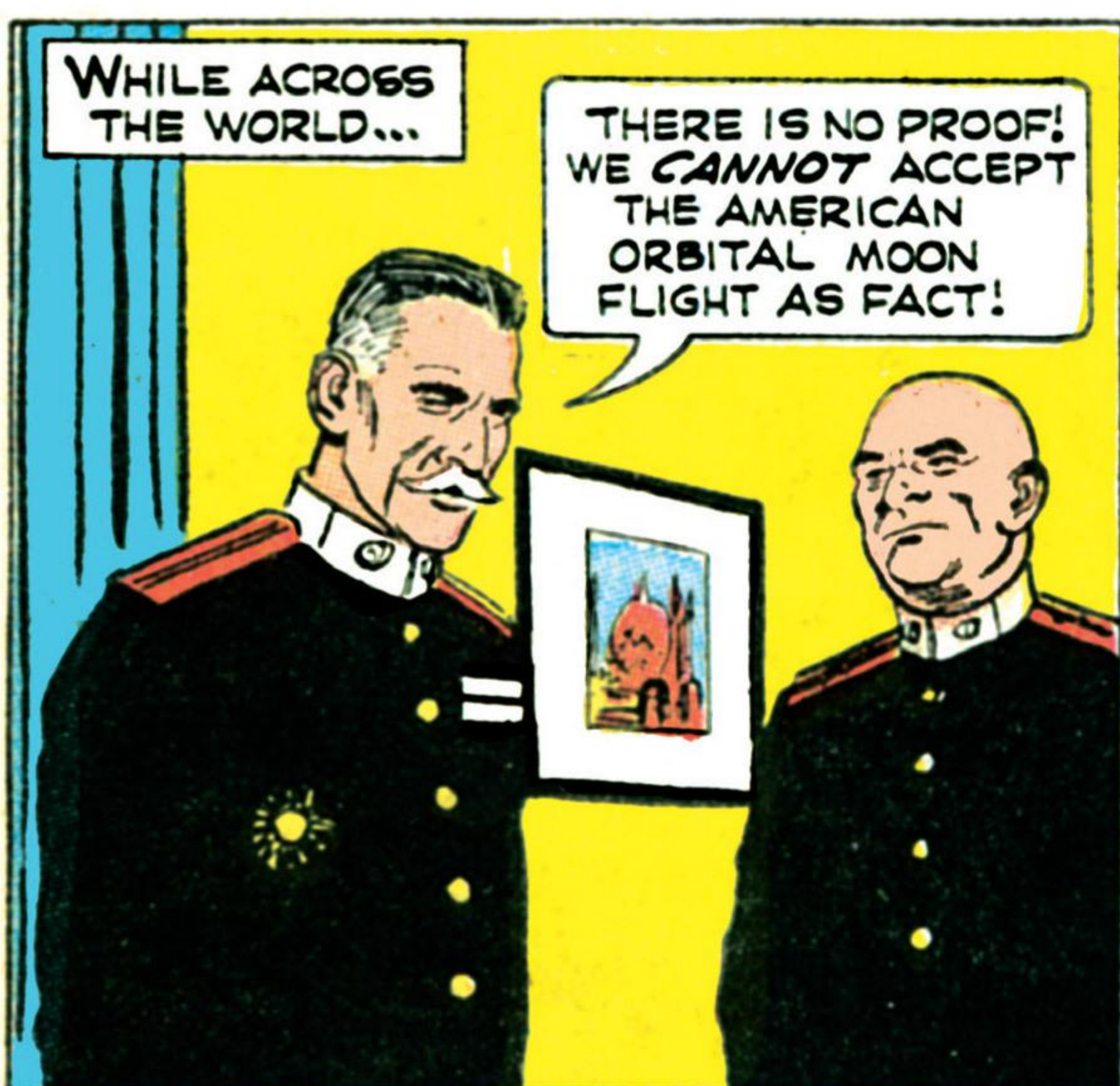
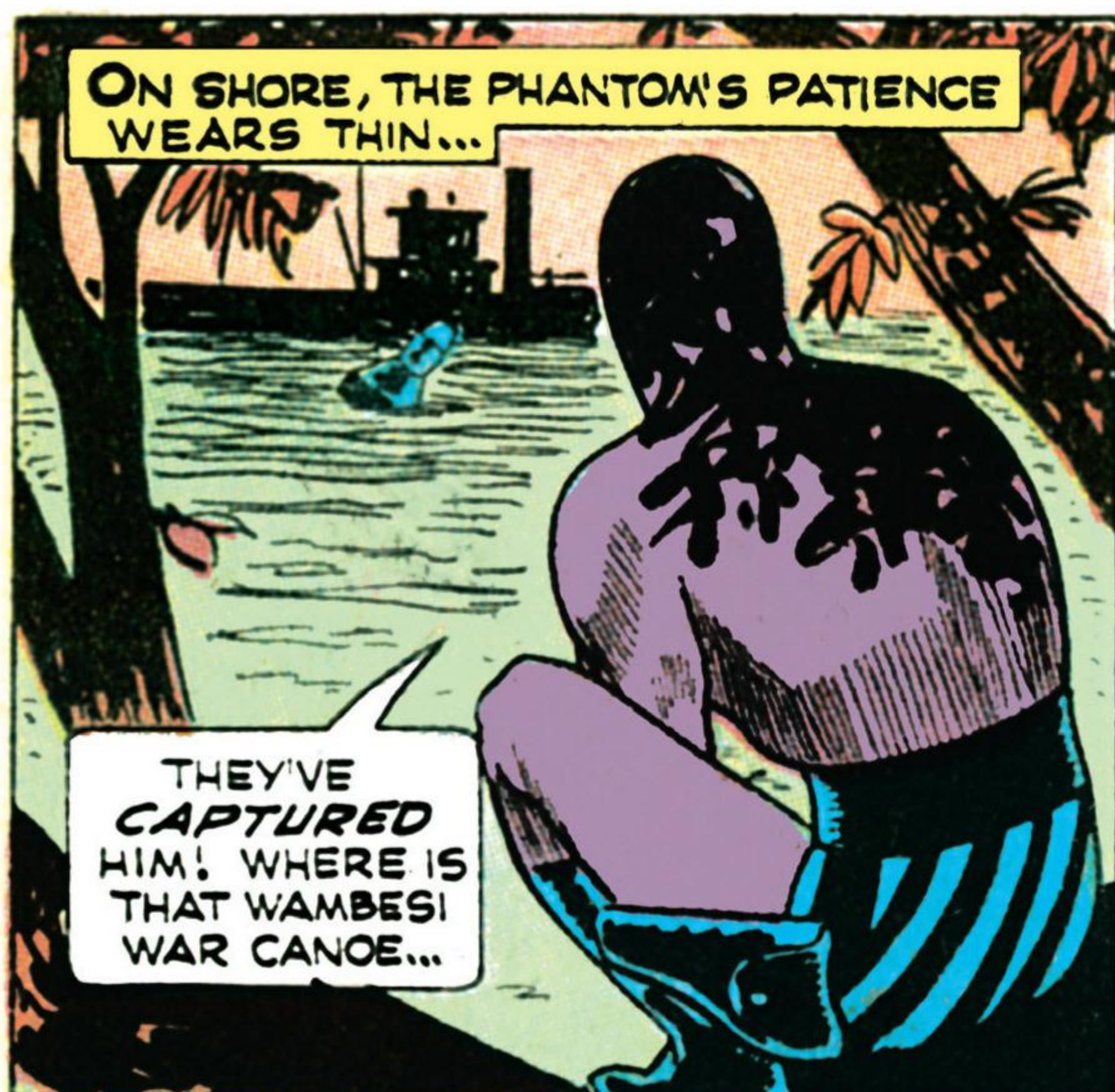




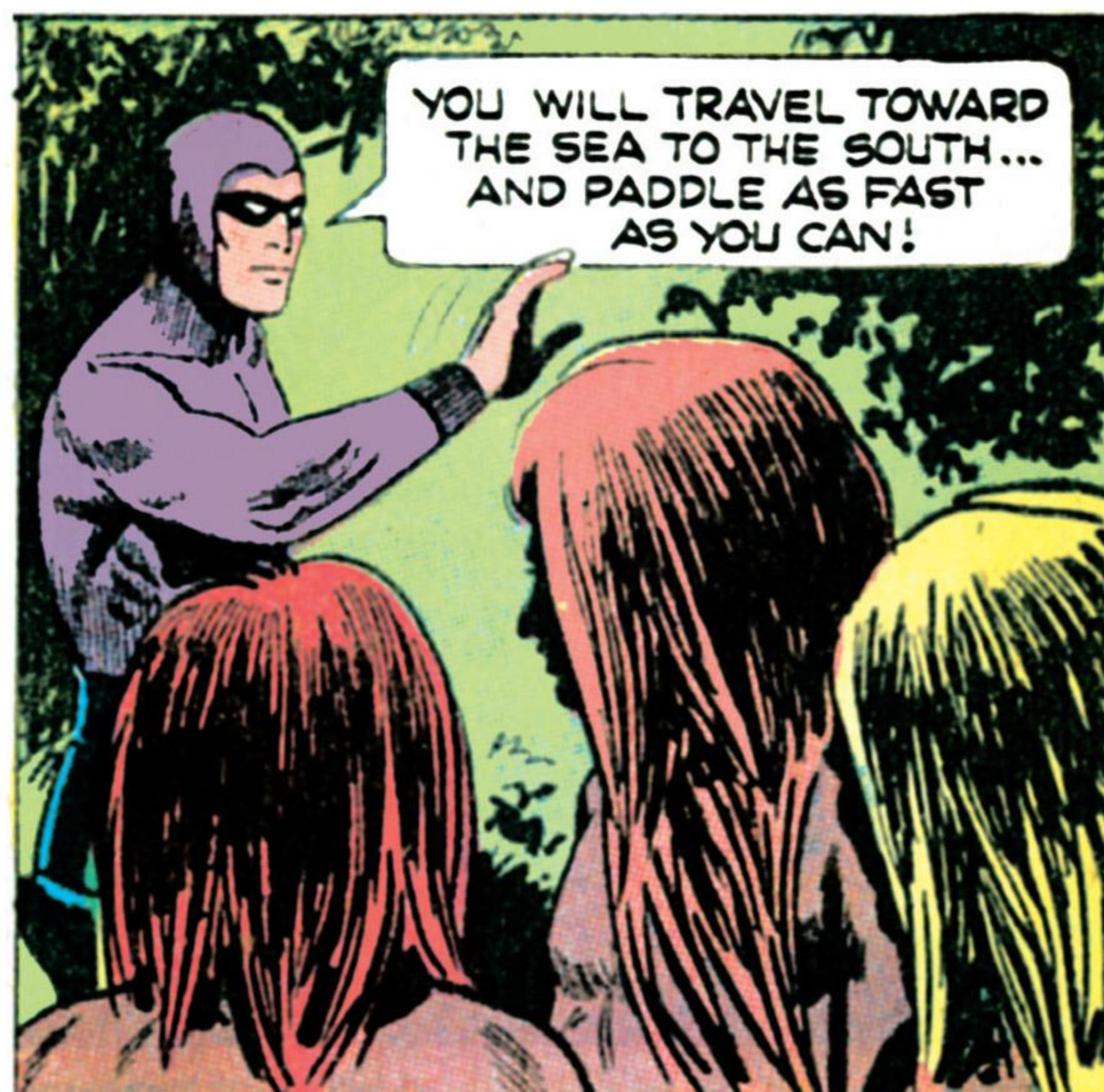




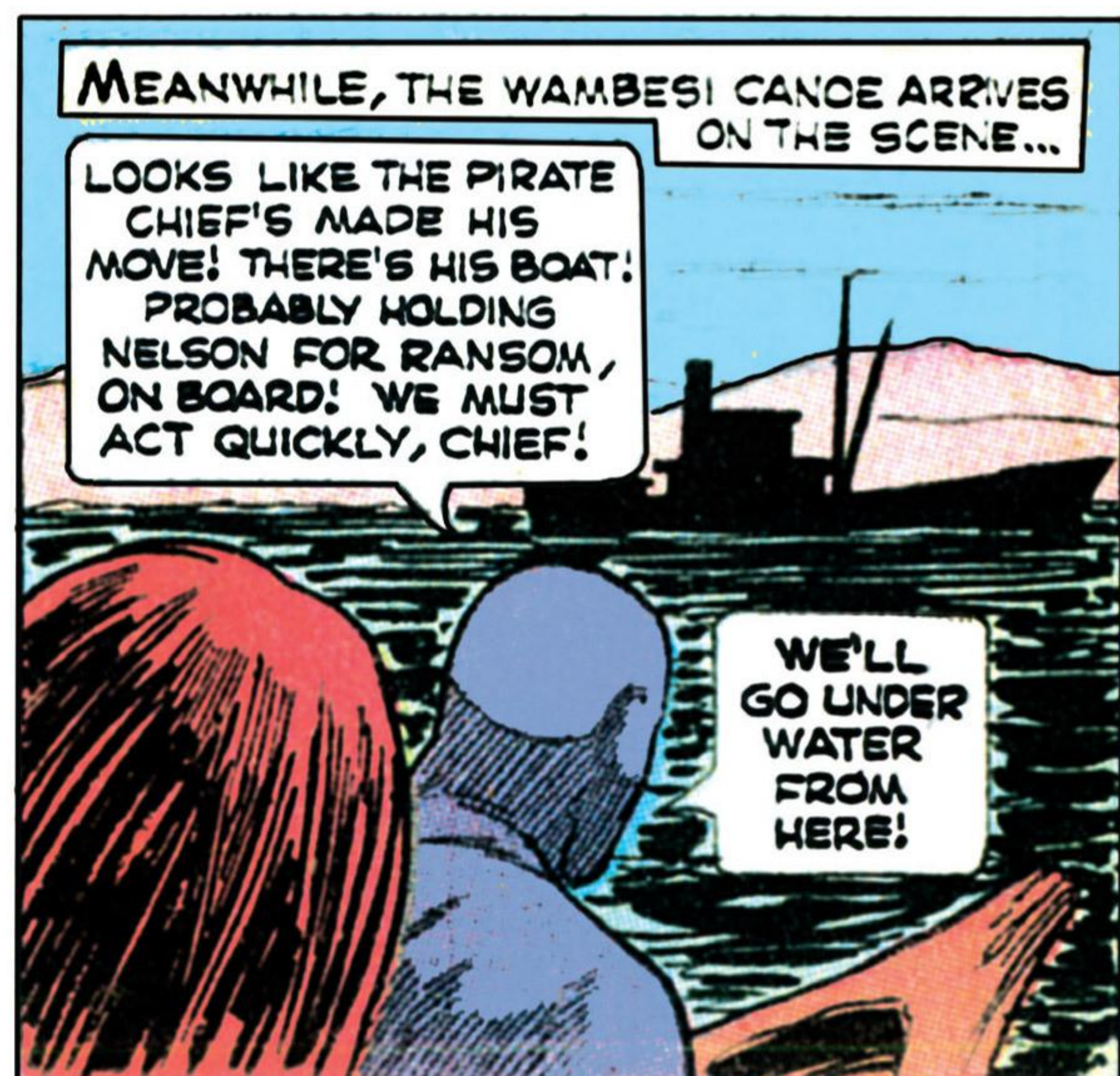
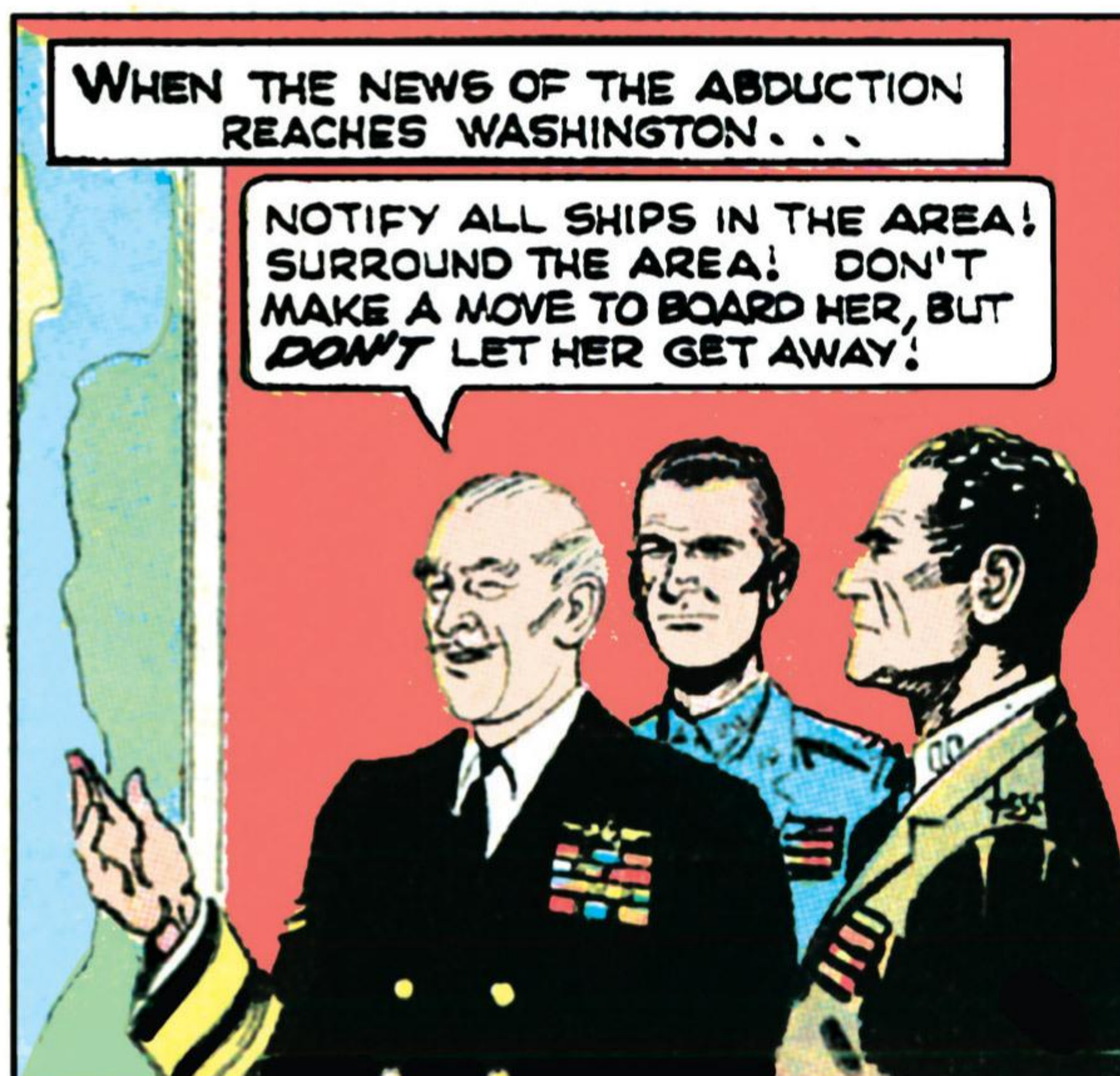




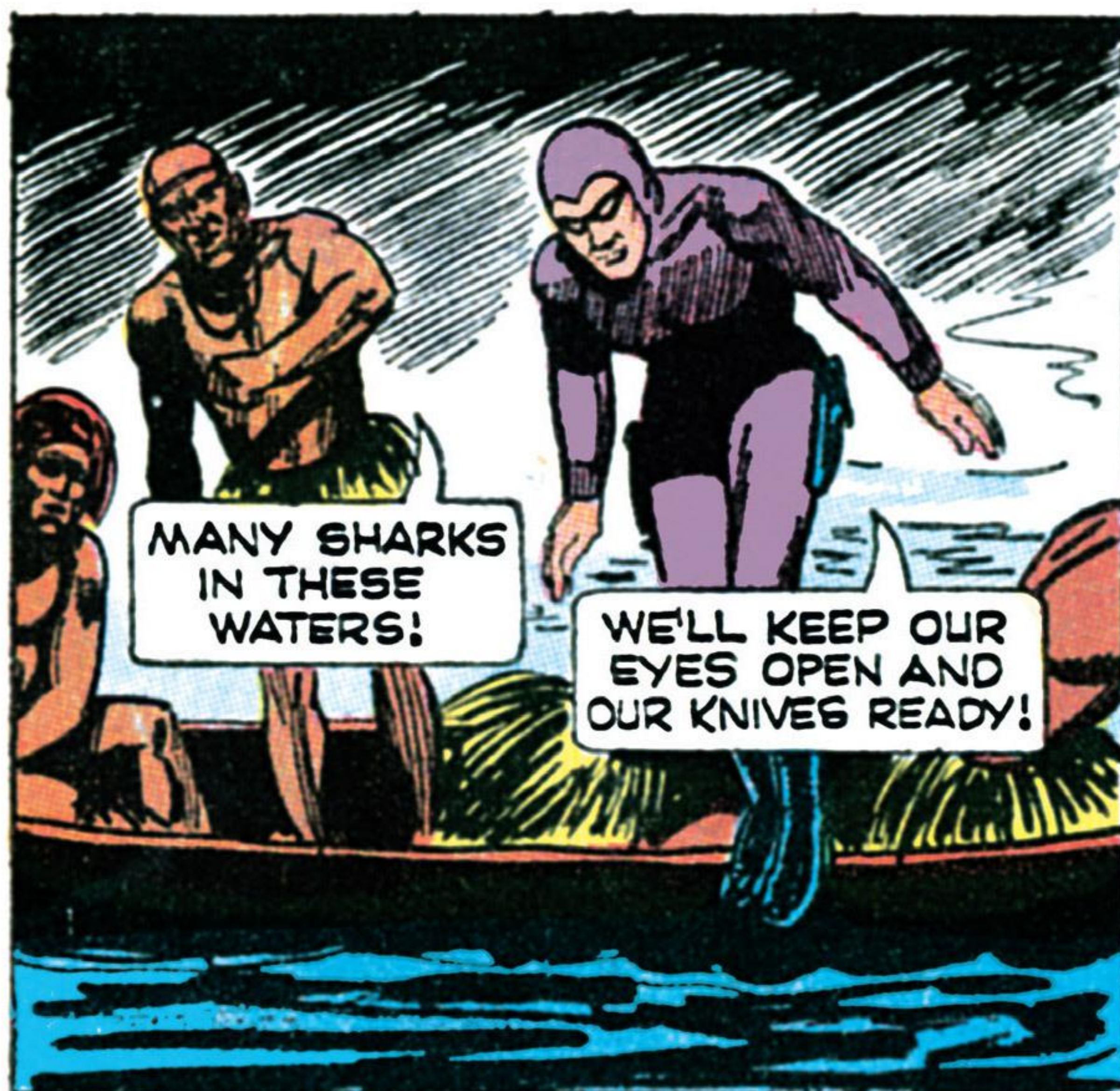










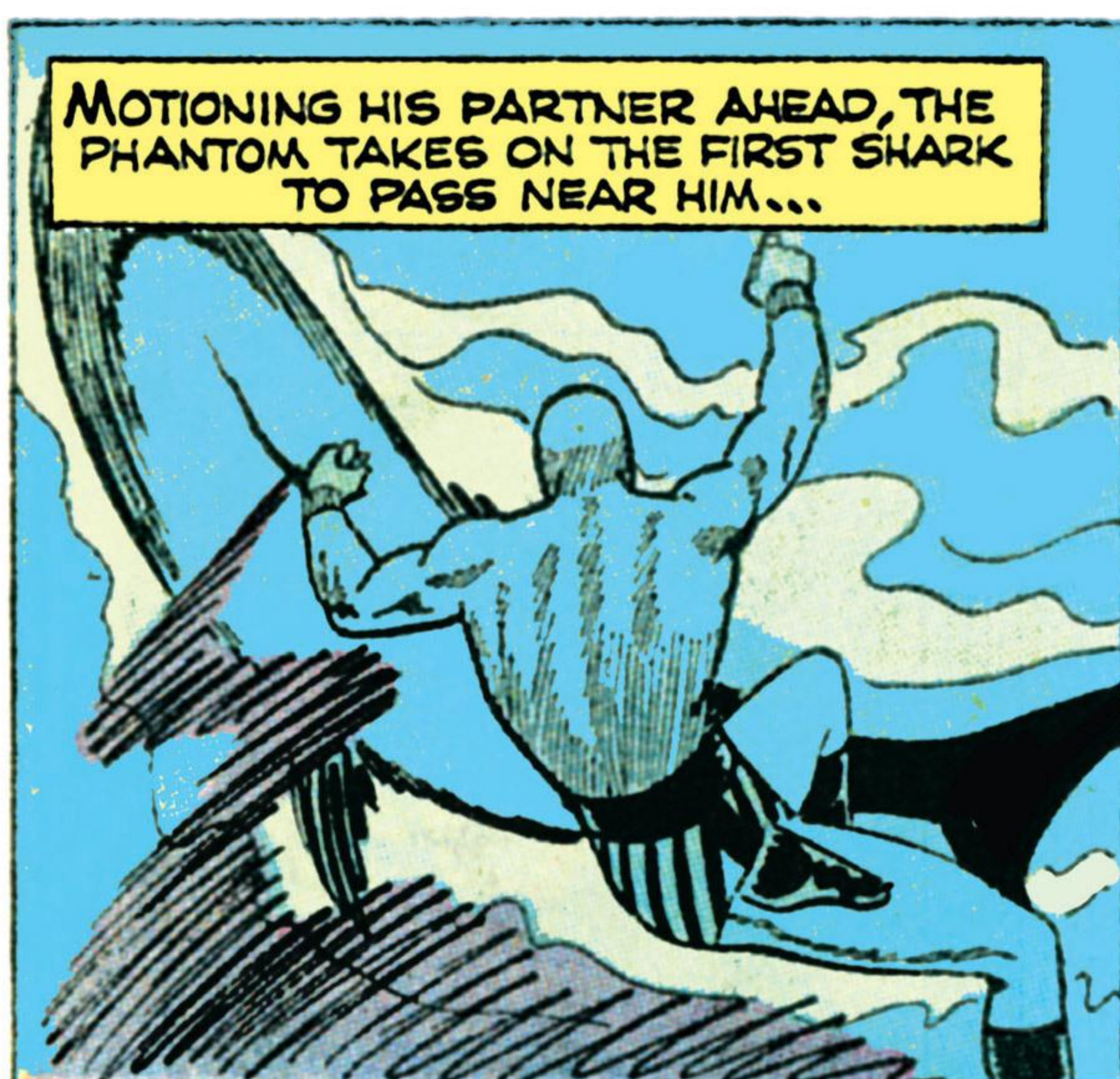


MANY SHARKS  
IN THESE  
WATERS!

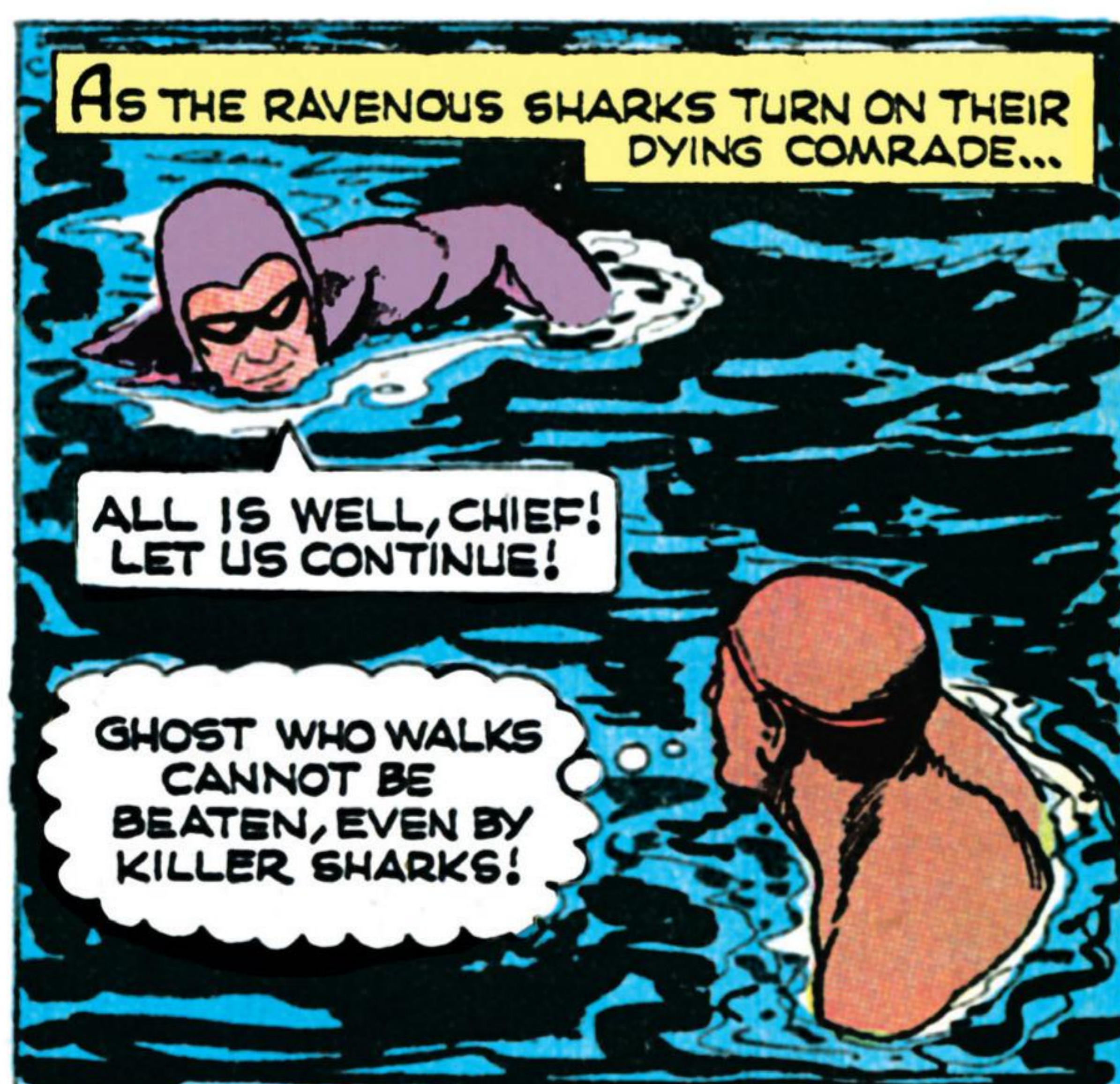
WE'LL KEEP OUR  
EYES OPEN AND  
OUR KNIVES READY!



**SHARKS!**  
I MUST KILL  
ONE TO KEEP  
THE OTHERS  
BUSY!



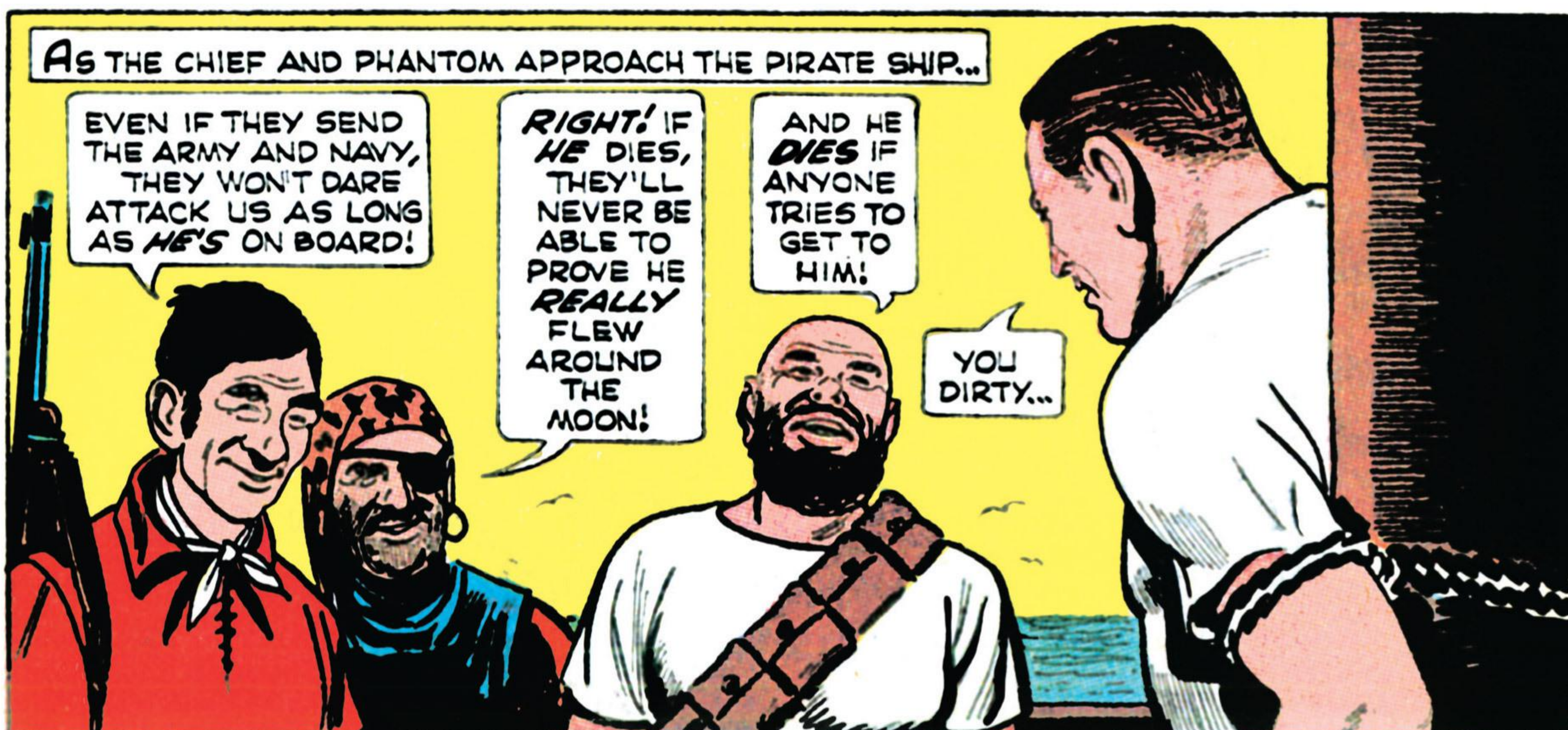
MOTIONING HIS PARTNER AHEAD, THE  
PHANTOM TAKES ON THE FIRST SHARK  
TO PASS NEAR HIM...



AS THE RAVENOUS SHARKS TURN ON THEIR  
DYING COMRADE...

ALL IS WELL, CHIEF!  
LET US CONTINUE!

GHOST WHO WALKS  
CANNOT BE  
BEATEN, EVEN BY  
KILLER SHARKS!



AS THE CHIEF AND PHANTOM APPROACH THE PIRATE SHIP...

EVEN IF THEY SEND  
THE ARMY AND NAVY,  
THEY WON'T DARE  
ATTACK US AS LONG  
AS **HE'S** ON BOARD!

**RIGHT!** IF  
**HE** DIES,  
THEY'LL  
NEVER BE  
ABLE TO  
PROVE HE  
**REALLY**  
FLEW  
AROUND  
THE  
MOON!

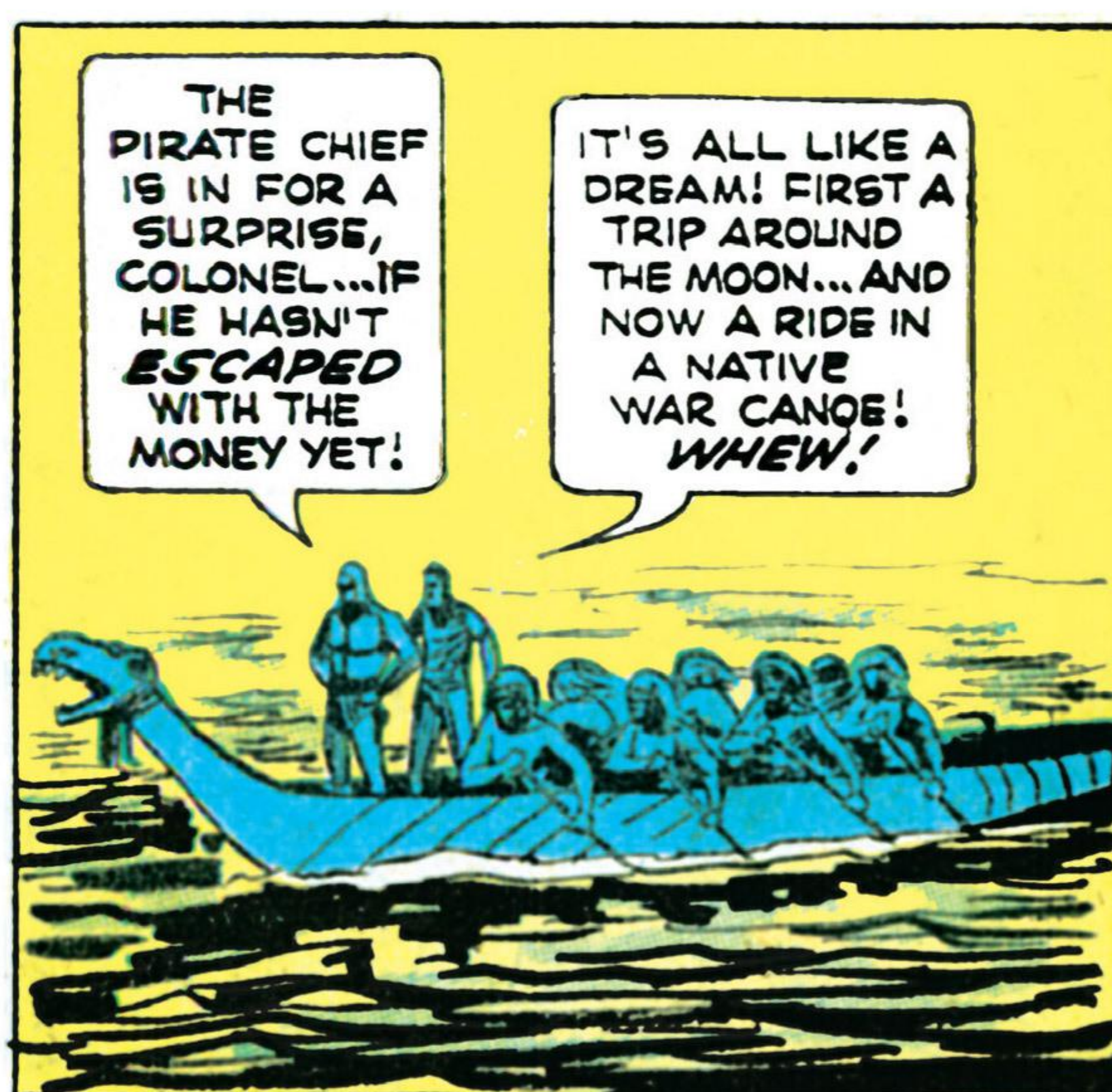
AND HE  
**DIES** IF  
ANYONE  
TRIES TO  
GET TO  
HIM!

YOU  
DIRTY...

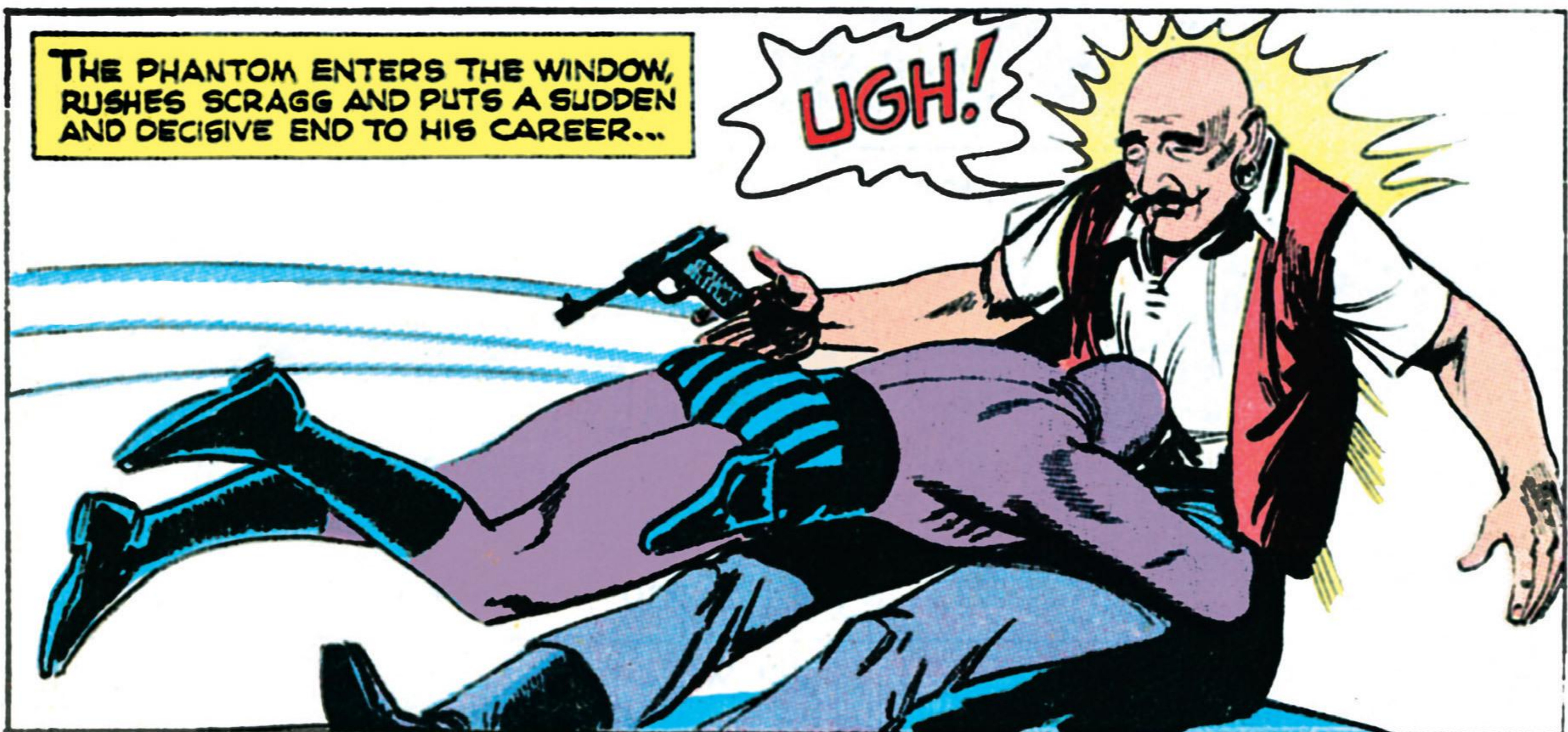
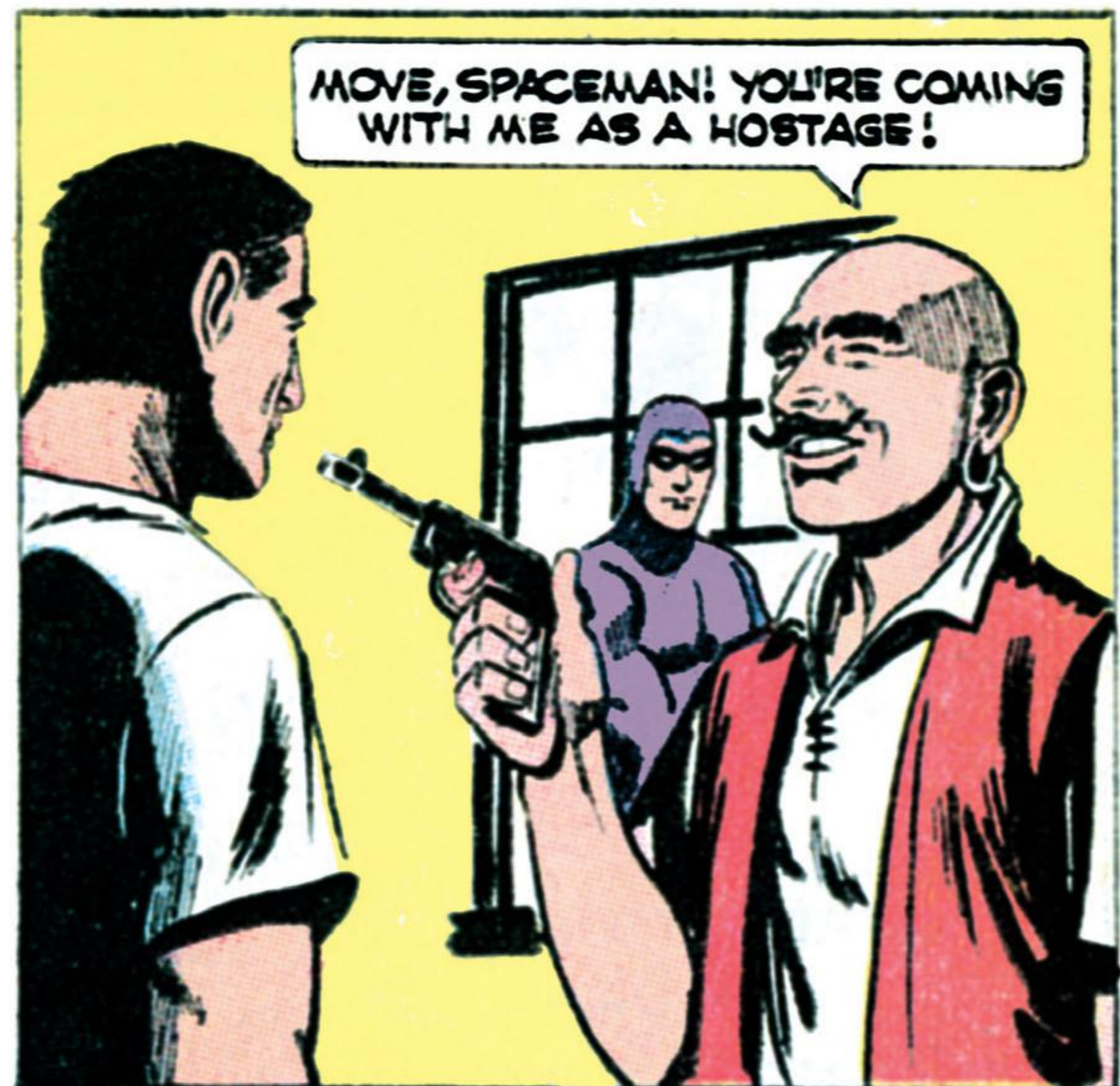
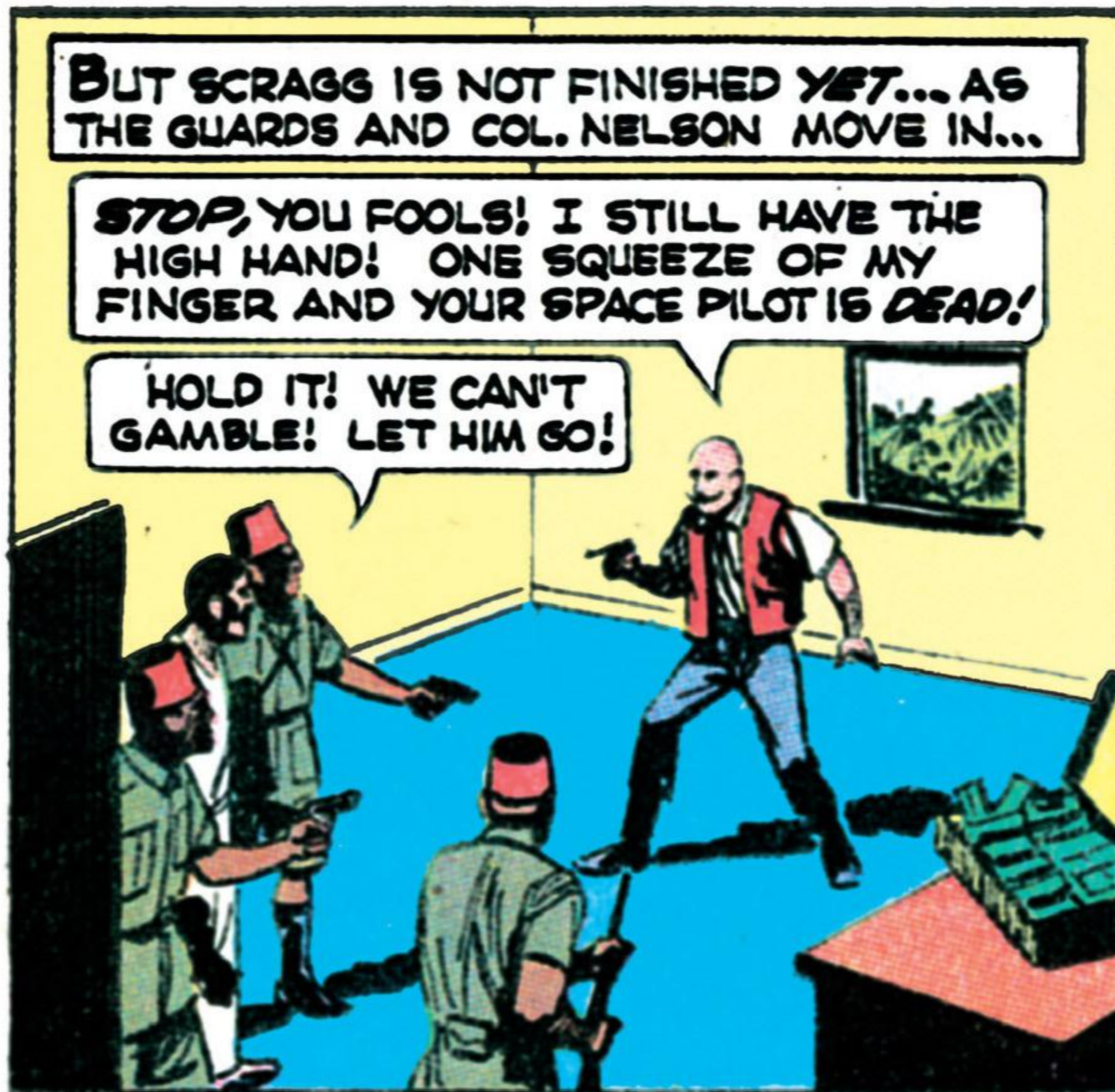














THE  
PHANTOM

# The MASKED EMISSARY

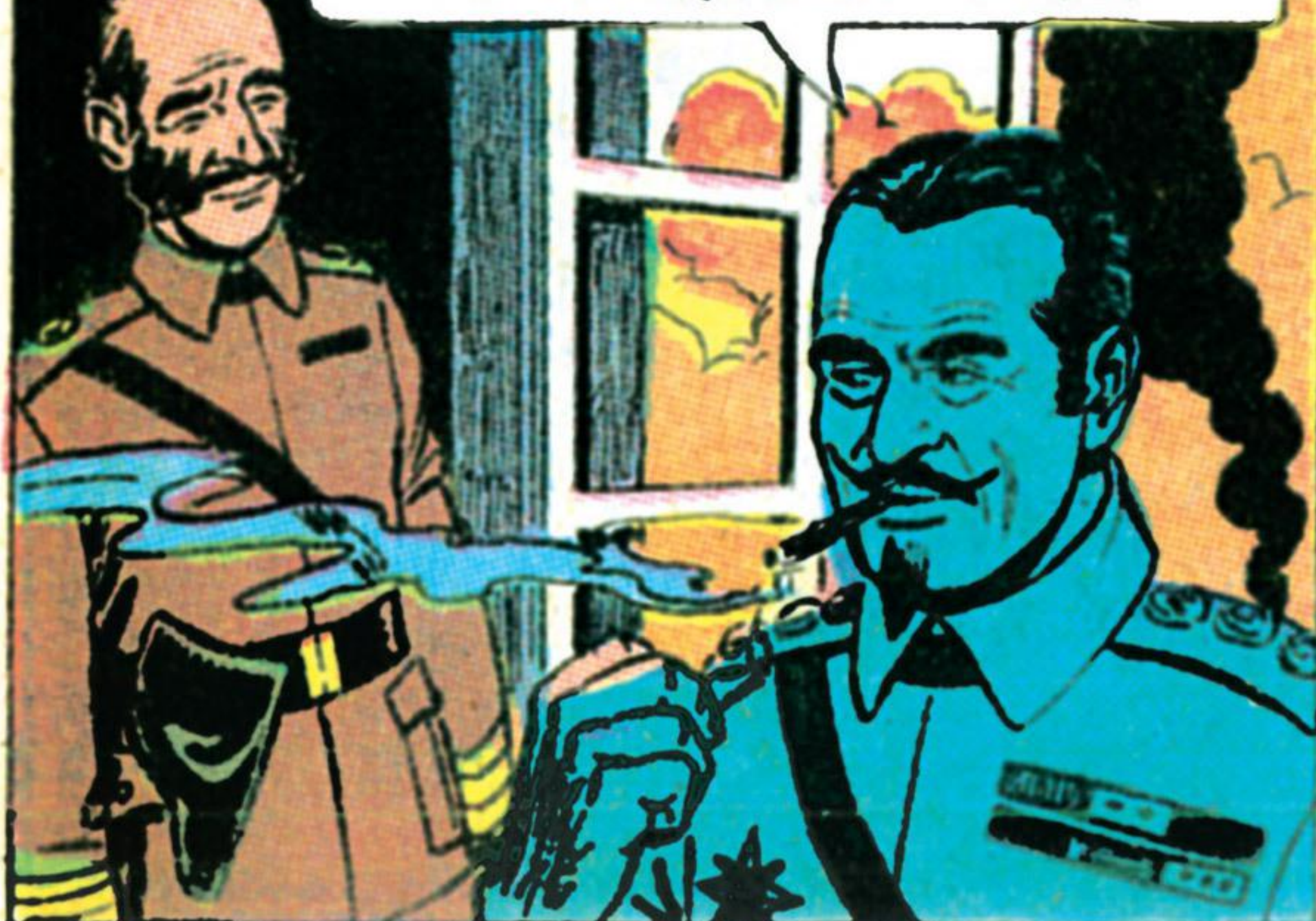
**N**EAR THE EDGE OF THE BENGALI JUNGLE, ARMED REVOLT FLARES IN THE STREETS! THE PEOPLE ARE REBELLING AGAINST BABABU, THE HATED TYRANT, WHO HAS DRIVEN THEIR ELECTED PREMIER, LUAGA, FROM OFFICE...

M-MORE OF LUAGA'S FOLLOWERS. THEY HAVE BOMBED YOUR STATUE IN THE SQUARE, CAPTAIN BABABU!

**BLAM!**



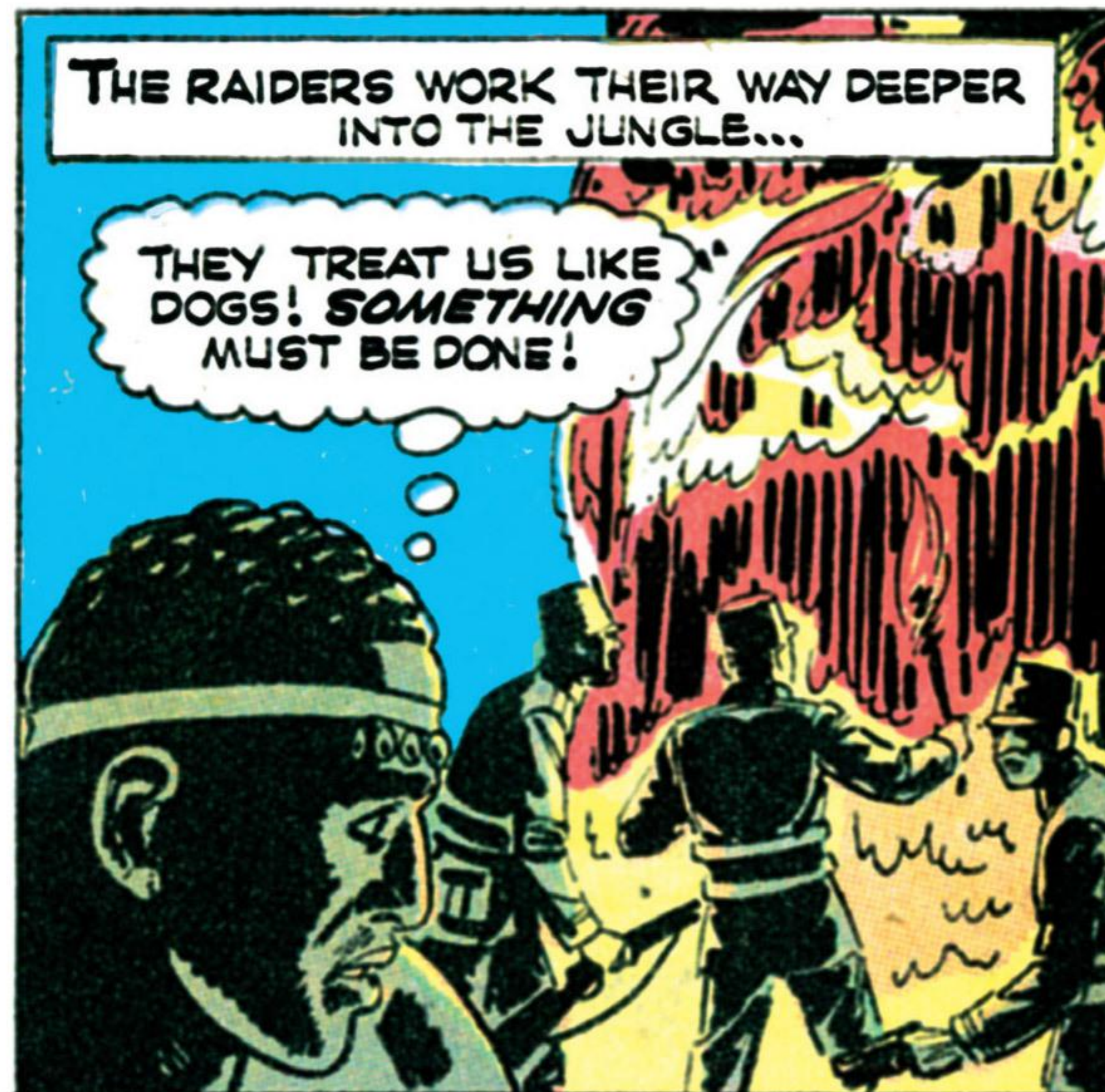
WE MUST *FIND* LUAGA! UNTIL HE IS SOUGHT OUT AND PUNISHED PROPERLY BEFORE THESE VERMIN THEY WILL ALWAYS HAVE HOPE HE WILL *REGAIN* POWER!



HE IS HIDING SOMEWHERE IN THE JUNGLE SOUTH OF HERE! *FIND HIM!*









WHEN THE CHIEFS ARRIVE BEFORE THE SKULL THRONE...

SHALL WE FIGHT THEM, PHANTOM? OUR WARRIORS ARE BRAVE! THEY CAN TEACH THE SOLDIERS A GOOD LESSON!



NO! YOU CANNOT BATTLE BABABU'S WELL-TRAINED SOLDIERS... IT WOULD BE A MASSACRE!

WHEN THEY COME TO YOUR GATES GREET THEM WITH *FLOWERS*... WELCOME THEM! LET THEM SEARCH! THEY WILL NOT FIND WHAT THEY ARE LOOKING FOR!

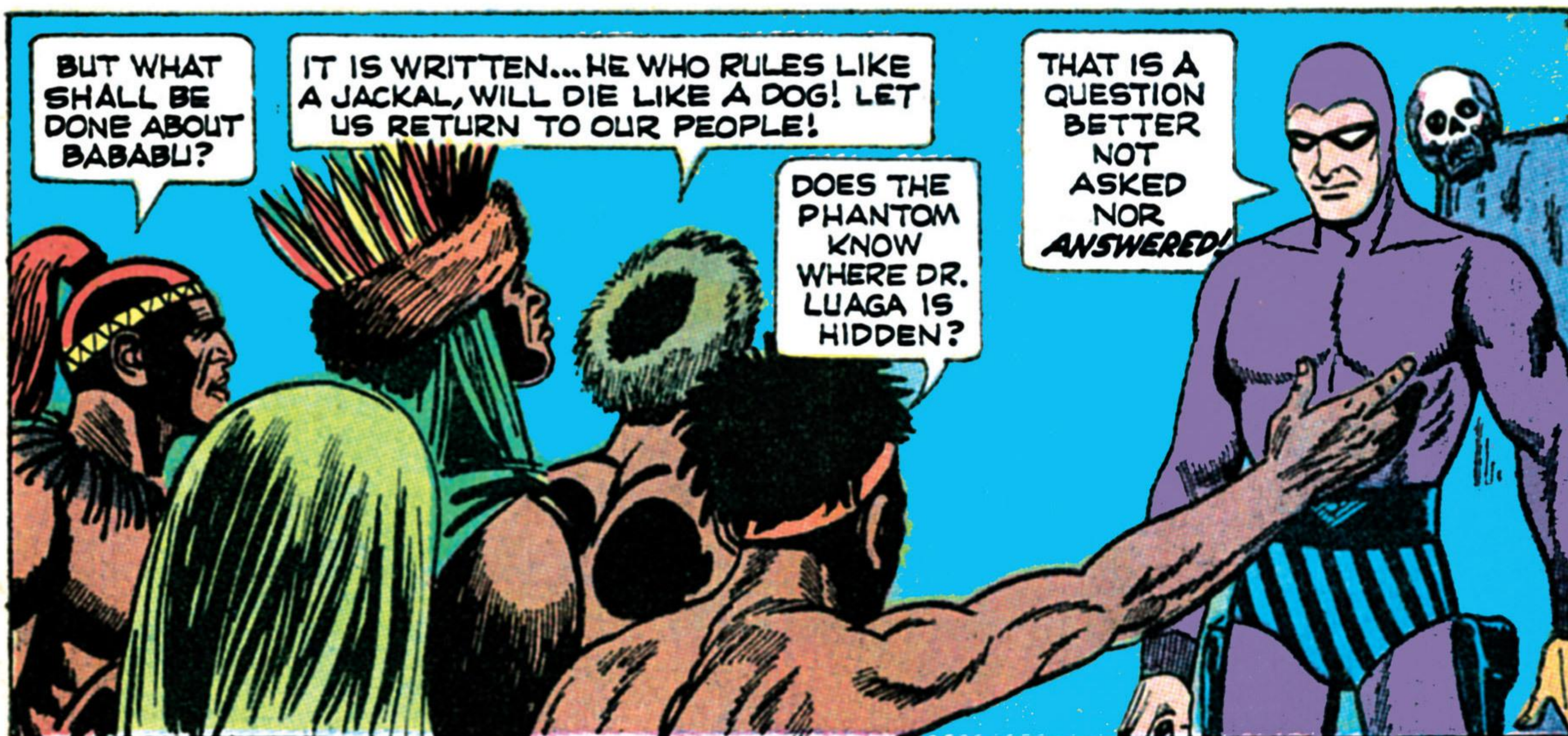


BUT WHAT SHALL BE DONE ABOUT BABABU?

IT IS WRITTEN... HE WHO RULES LIKE A JACKAL, WILL DIE LIKE A DOG! LET US RETURN TO OUR PEOPLE!

DOES THE PHANTOM KNOW WHERE DR. LUAGA IS HIDDEN?

THAT IS A QUESTION BETTER NOT ASKED NOR ANSWERED!

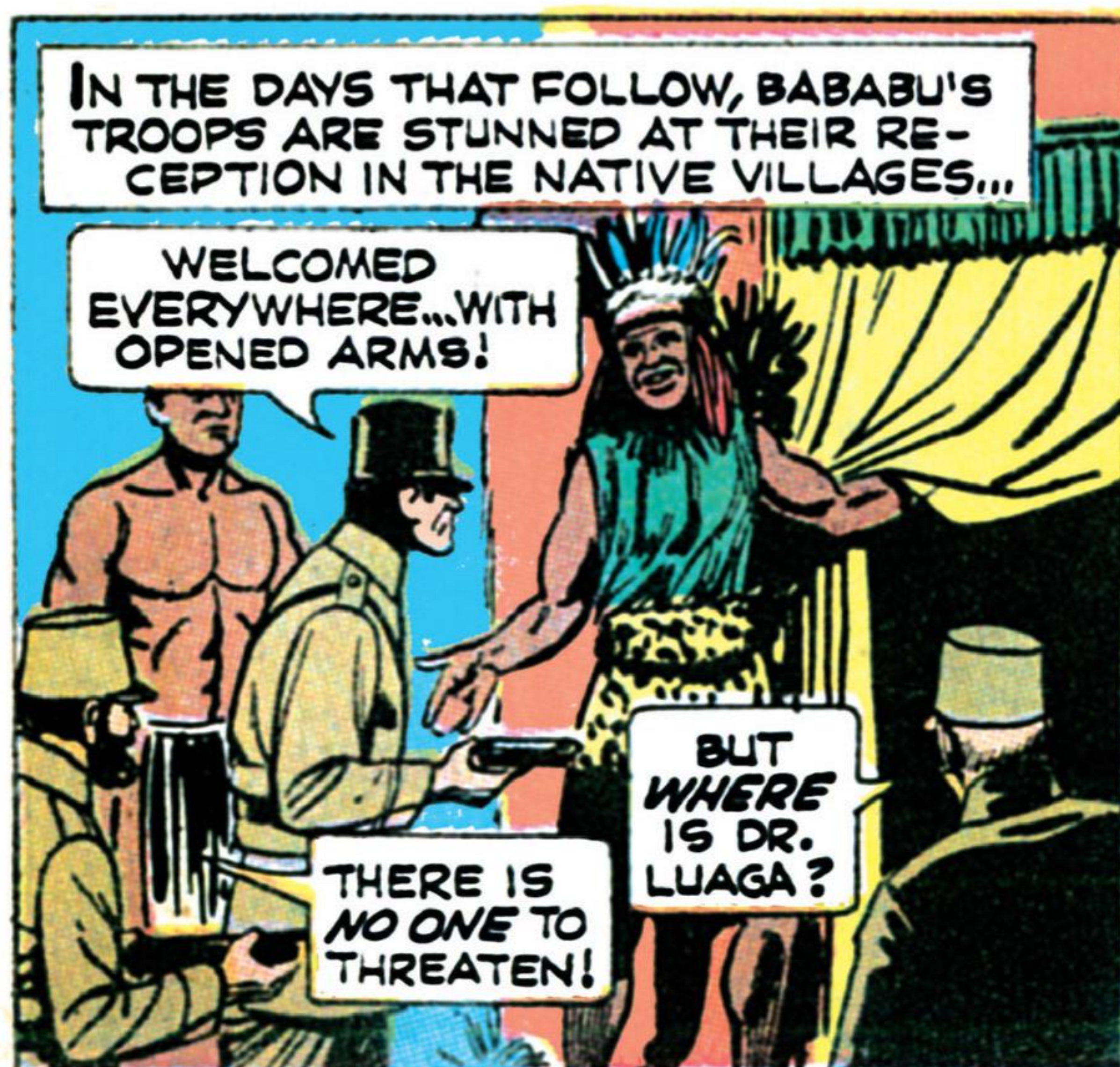


IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, BABABU'S TROOPS ARE STUNNED AT THEIR RECEPTION IN THE NATIVE VILLAGES...

WELCOMED EVERYWHERE... WITH OPENED ARMS!

BUT WHERE IS DR. LUAGA?

THERE IS NO ONE TO THREATEN!



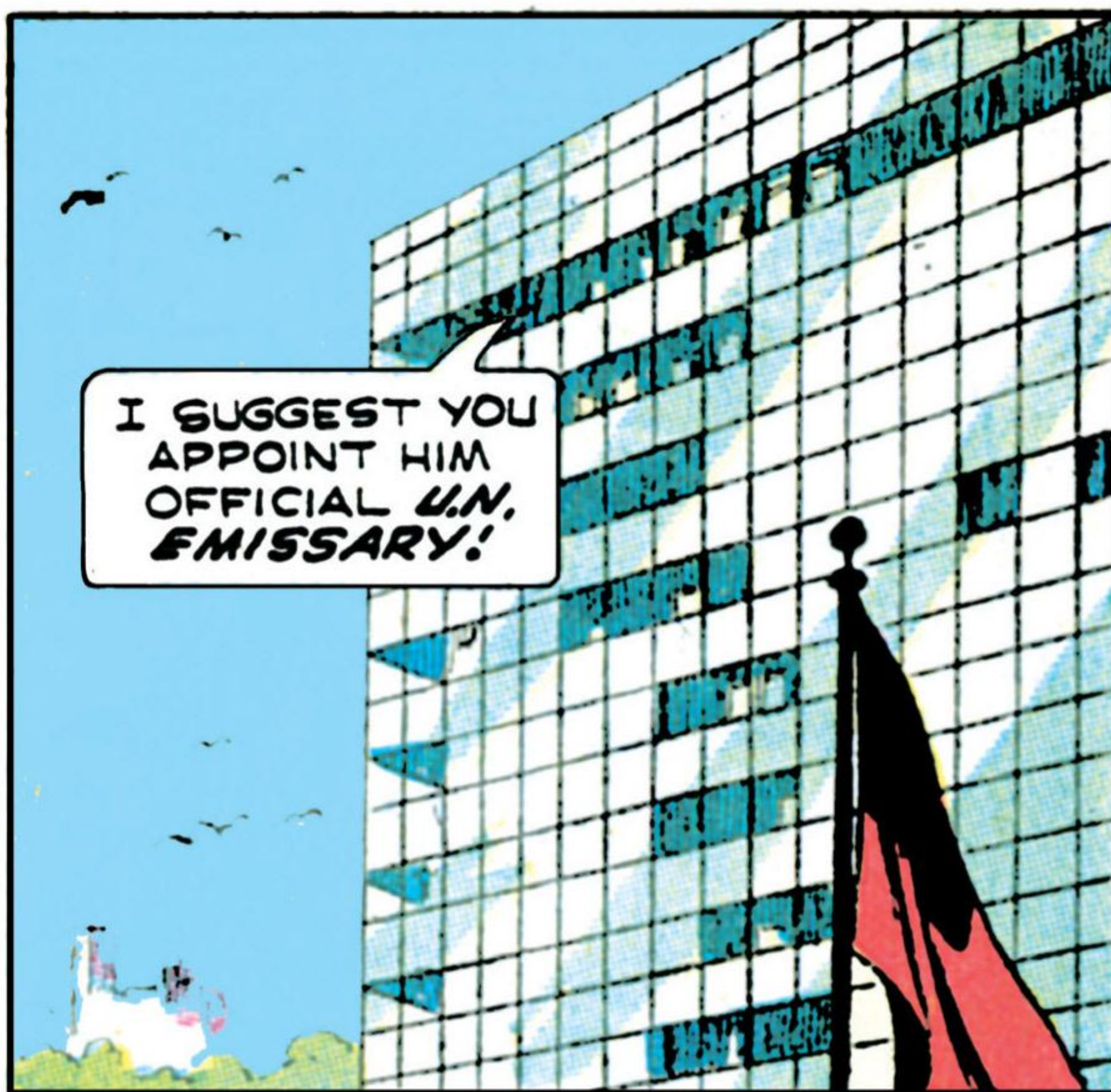
AND AT THIS MOMENT, IN THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S OFFICE AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK...

YOU SAY THERE IS NO NEED TO SEND U.N. TROOPS... THAT *ONE MASKED MAN* MIGHT ACCOMPLISH THE JOB?

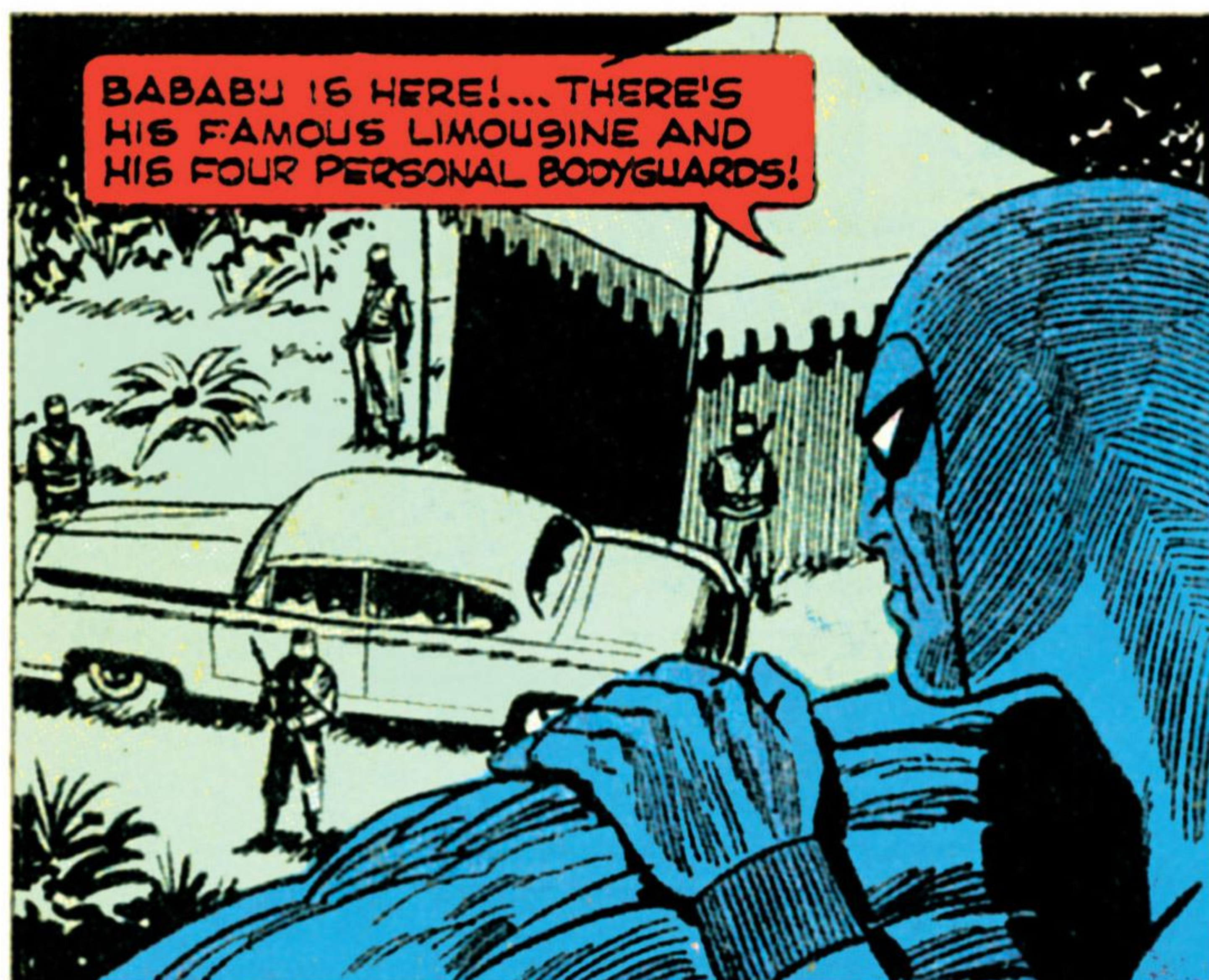
THIS ONE COULD, SIR! HE MIGHT HELP US AVOID OUTRIGHT WARFARE! HE HOLDS GREAT POWER IN MY COUNTRY!













A GUARD'S HAT HIDES THE PHANTOM'S FACE AS HE DRIVES THE CAR OUT OF THE CAMP...

I'LL HAVE TO DRIVE FAST SO THE GUARDS CAN'T GET A GOOD LOOK AT MY UNCONSCIOUS PASSENGERS... BUT NOT SO FAST THAT THEY'LL BE SUSPICIOUS!

SOMETHING IMPORTANT MUST HAVE COME UP... THE PREMIER IS IN A HURRY!

AT THE EDGE OF THE JUNGLE...

NOTIFY THE VILLAGE CHIEFS THAT I WANT TO SEE THEM IN THE SKULL CAVE AT ONCE!

IT WILL BE DONE, O GHOST WHO WALKS!

A FEW HOURS LATER IN THE DEEP WOODS...

BABABU, YOU ARE HERE TO BE JUDGED BY THE CHIEFS FOR STEALING THE OFFICE OF LUAGA, THE RIGHTFUL PREMIER!

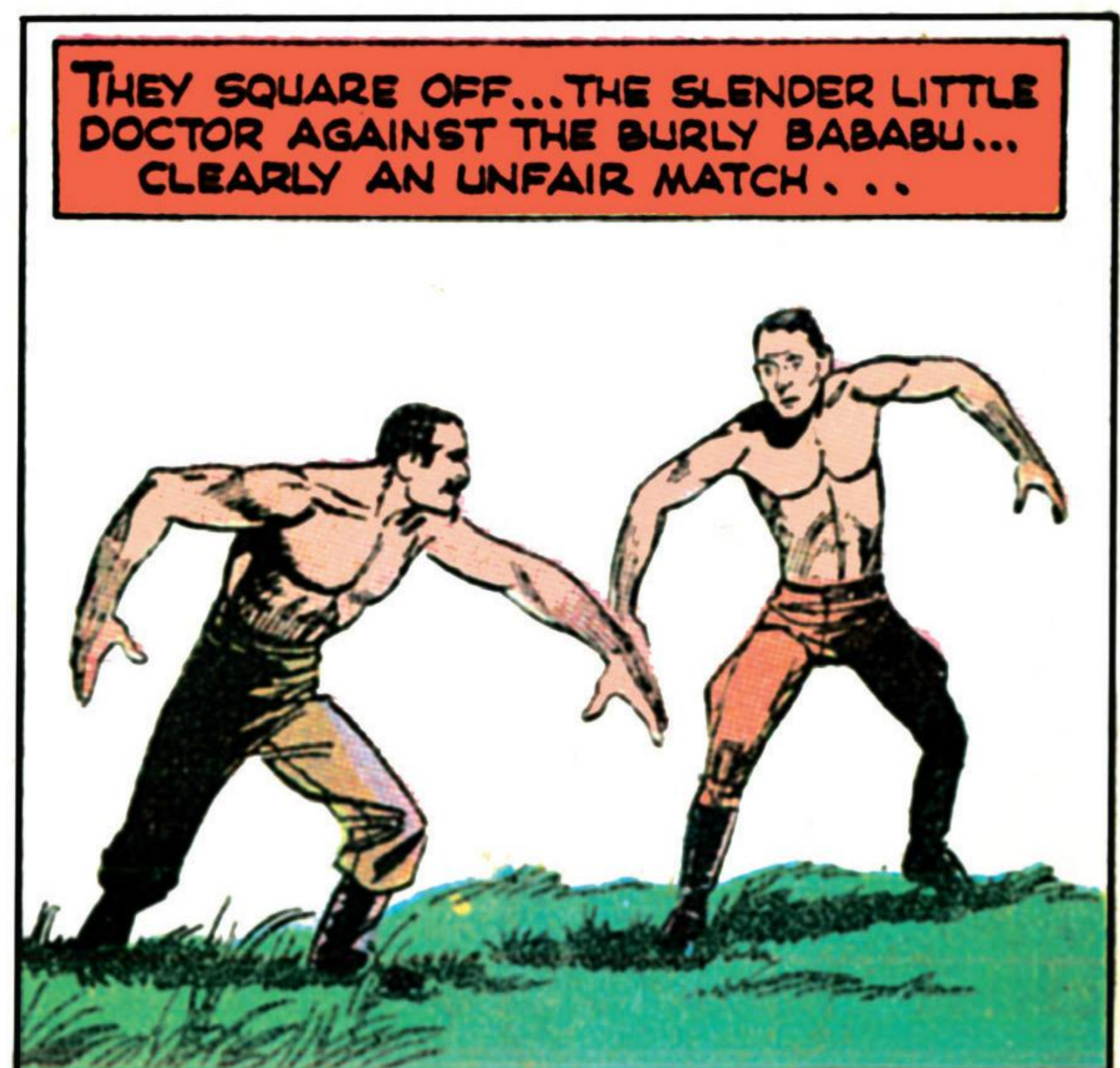
BOSH! HOW CAN THEY JUDGE?

AND WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU TO JUDGE ME?

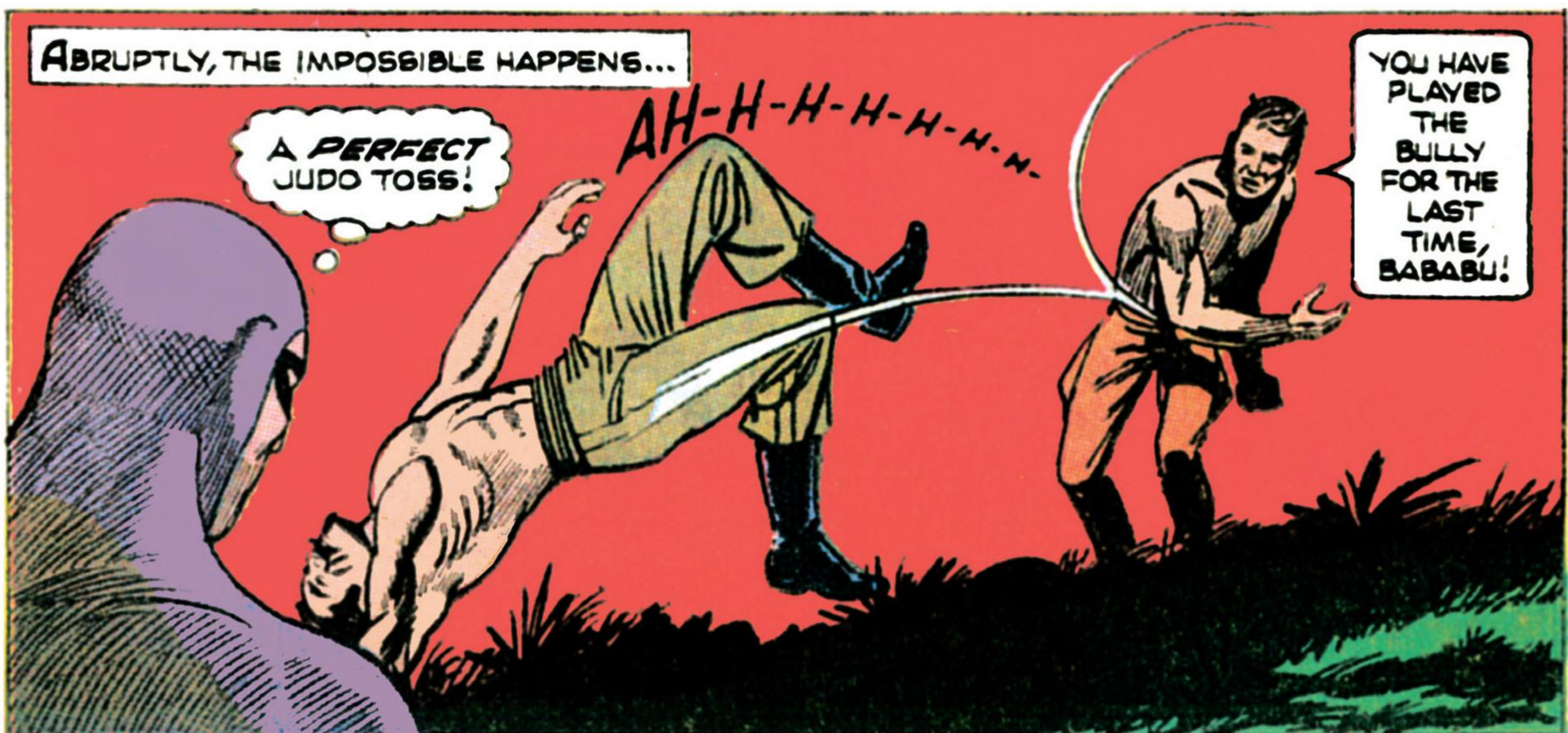
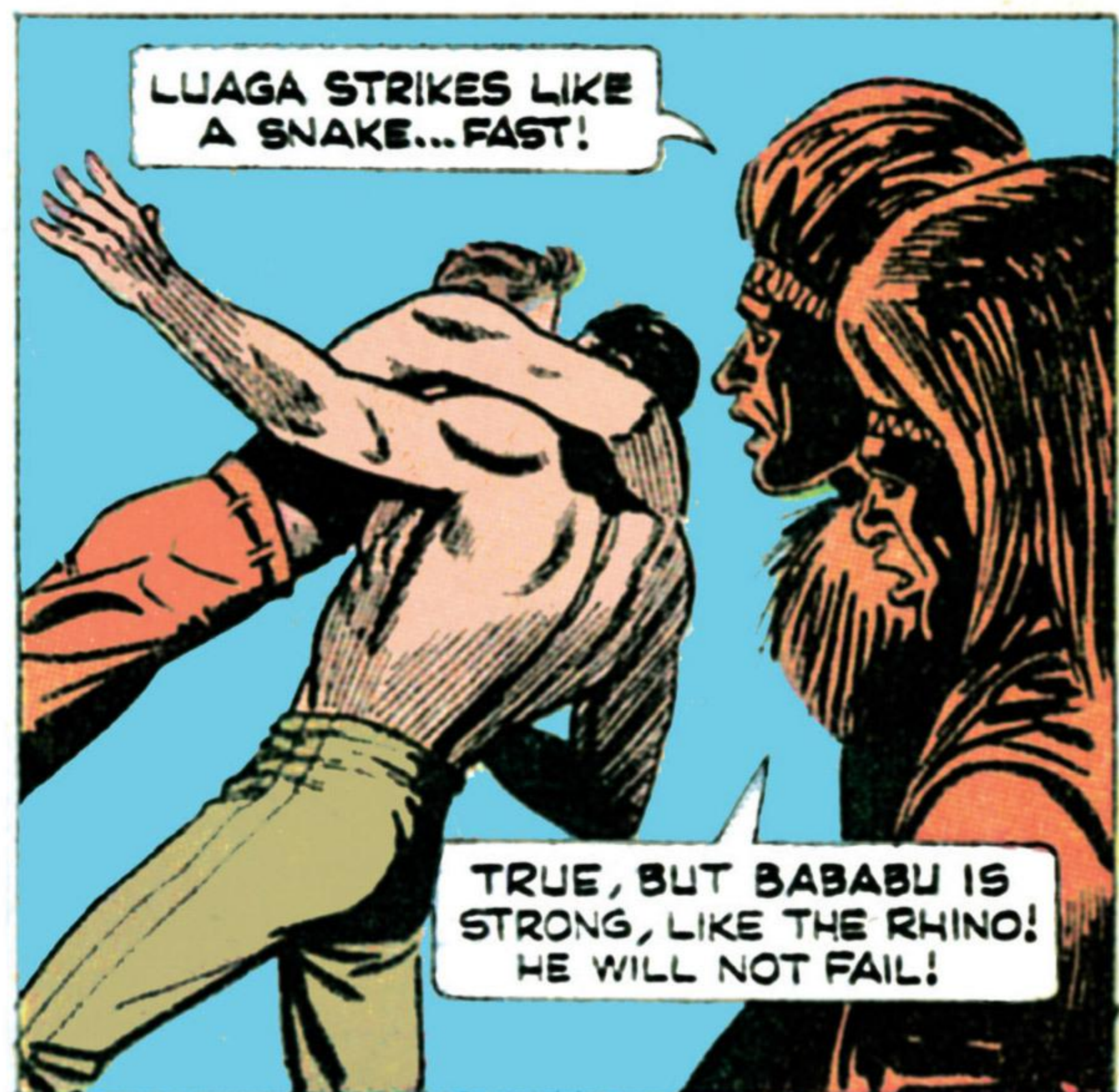
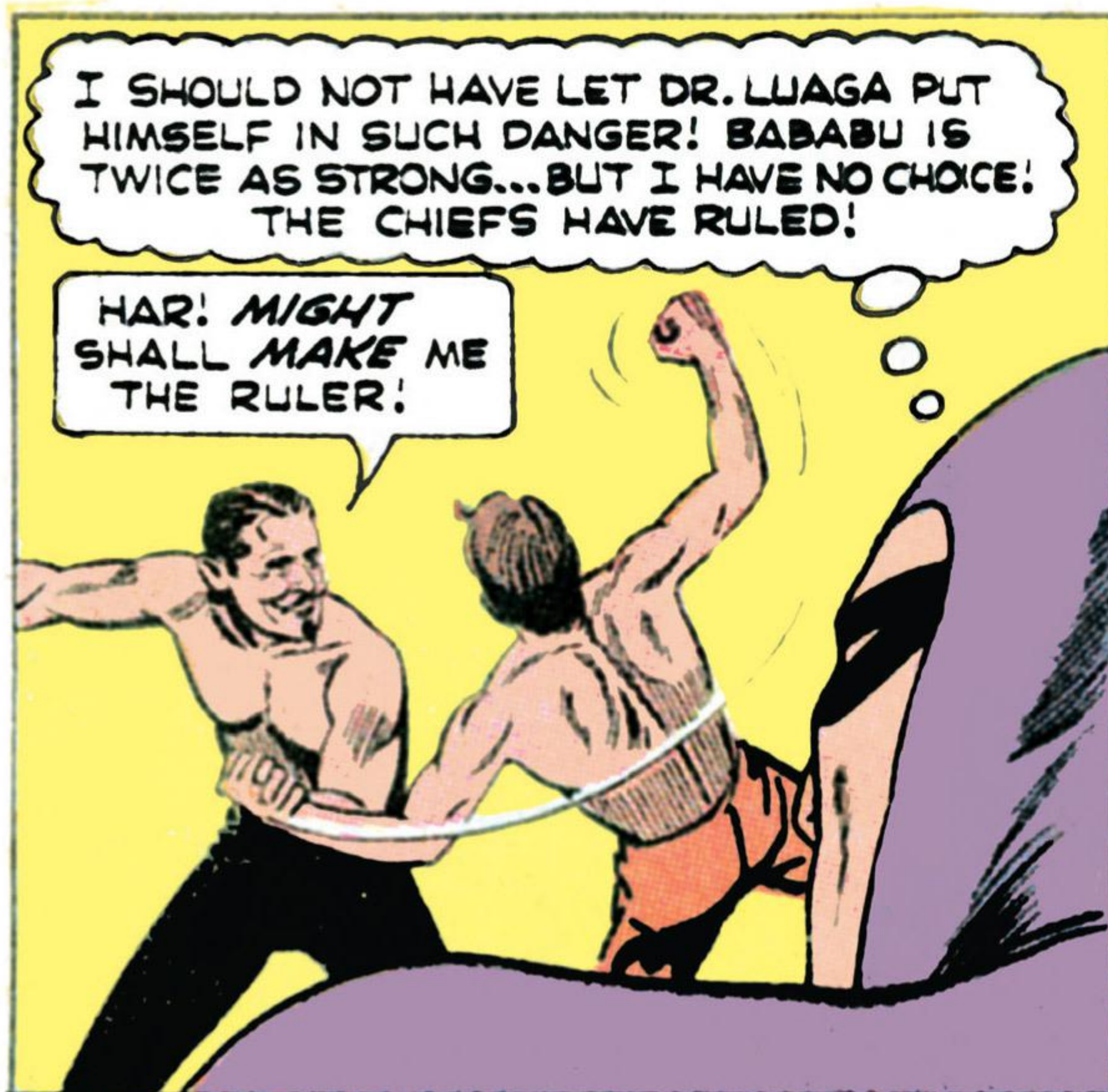
ALL THE RIGHT IN THE WORLD, BABABU! I HAVE BEEN APPOINTED OFFICIAL EMISSARY BY THE U.N., AND THE CHIEFS ARE ALL RULERS!

YES, SHALL IT BE TRIAL BY FIRE?











AGAIN AND AGAIN LUAGA EXECUTES PERFECT JUDO TOSSES TO THE AMAZEMENT OF THE PHANTOM...

**SWISH!**



ONE MORE TIME...

**YA-H-H-H-**



AND FINALLY...

**KILL KILL**

WAIT! I AM A DOCTOR! I **SAVE** LIVES, NOT TAKE THEM! YOU MUST JUDGE HIM FAIRLY!

WELL SAID, DOCTOR LUAGA!



THE "JURY" GOES INTO A HUDDLE AND SOON...

IT IS OUR DECISION THAT YOU SPEND **TEN** YEARS AT HARD LABOR IN THE JUNGLE, BABABU! THIS WOULD BE A MORE SEVERE PUNISHMENT THAN **DEATH!**



I'VE A QUESTION, CHIEF! WHEN YOU AGREED TO LET DR. LUAGA FIGHT, YOU **KNEW** HE WAS AN EXPERT JUDO MAN, DIDN'T YOU?

YES, PHANTOM! ALL KNOW THAT LUAGA IS A PROFESSOR OF THE JUDO **BLACK BELT!**



SOMETIMES THE WAYS OF THE JUNGLE LAW ARE MORE NOBLE THAN THOSE OF MODERN CIVILIZATION! **YES, INDEED!**







Above: unused cover production art for *The Phantom* #30.



# THE PHANTOM



Now! The incredible story  
of The Girl Phantom



from the Phantom Chronicles... The Adventures of  
**The GIRL PHANTOM**

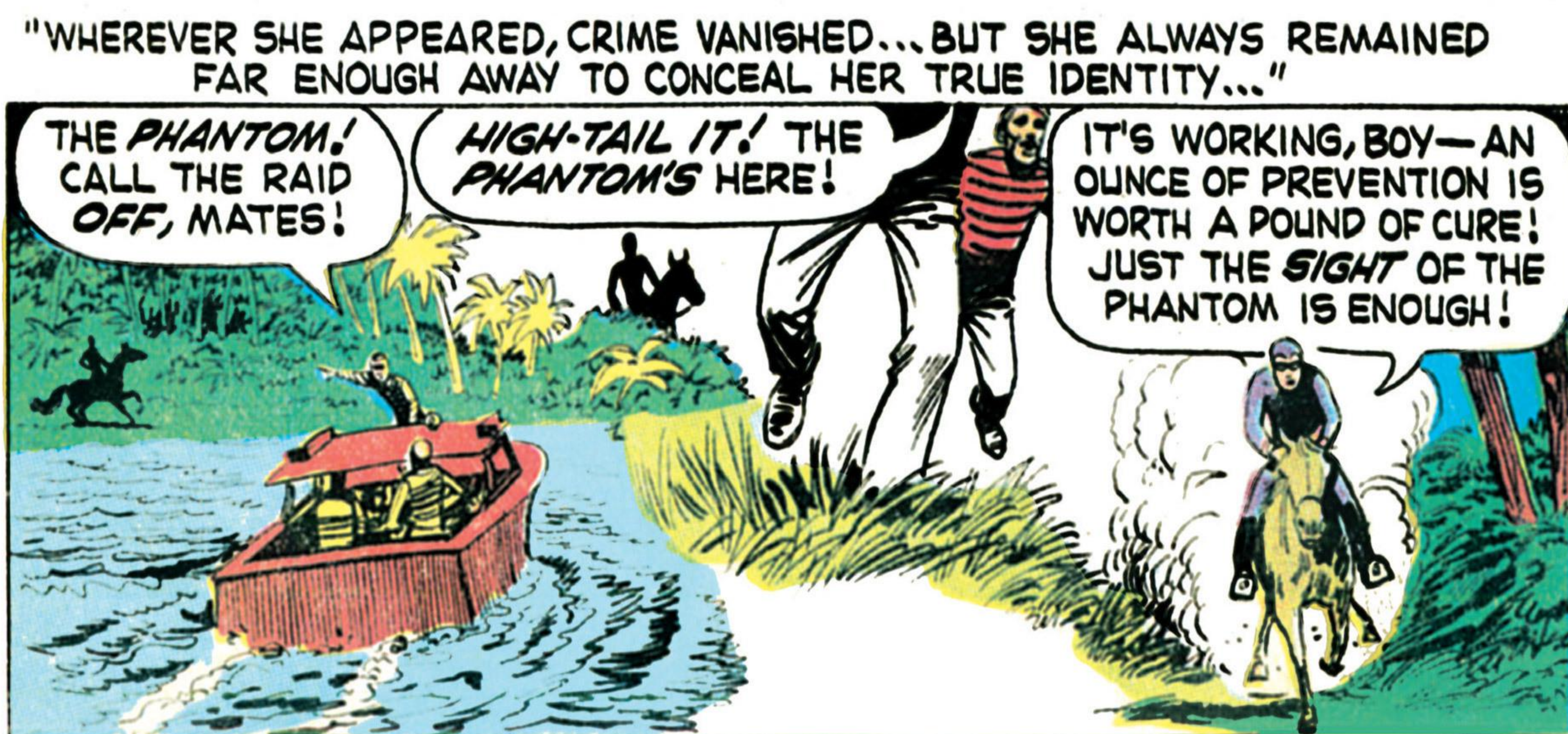
*IN THE DEPTHS OF THE SKULL CAVE,  
THE OFTEN INCREDIBLE HISTORY OF  
PHANTOMS PAST AND PRESENT IS  
RECORDED FOR ALL TIME IN THE  
CENTURIES-OLD PHANTOM CHRONICLES!*

INDEED THERE *WAS* A  
FEMALE PHANTOM, DIANA!  
LOOK... SHE'S MENTIONED  
HERE... HER NAME WAS JULIE!  
SHE WAS REALLY THE PHANTOM'S  
SISTER... AND SHE TOOK HIS  
PLACE TO STOP AN INVASION  
OF THE DEEP WOODS!

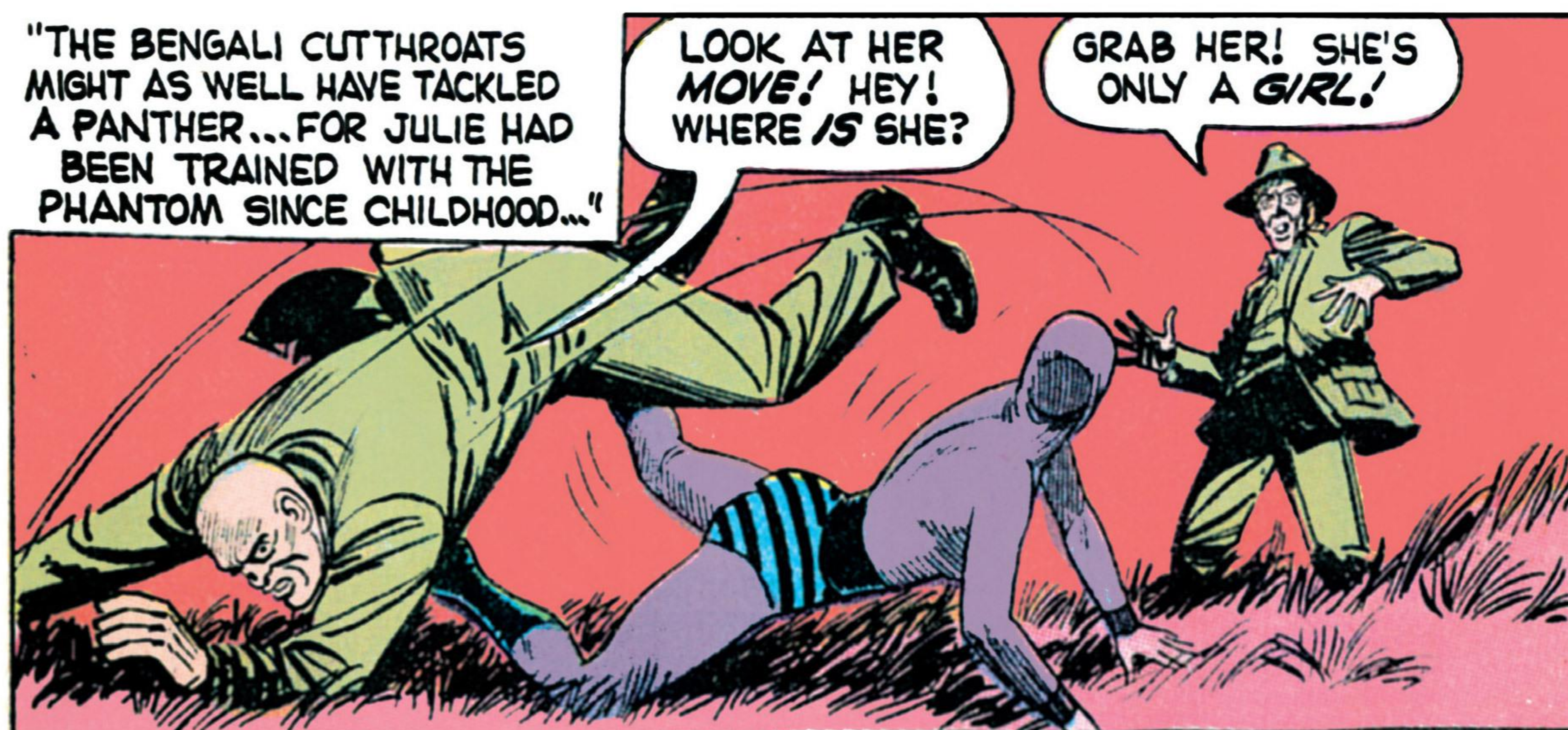
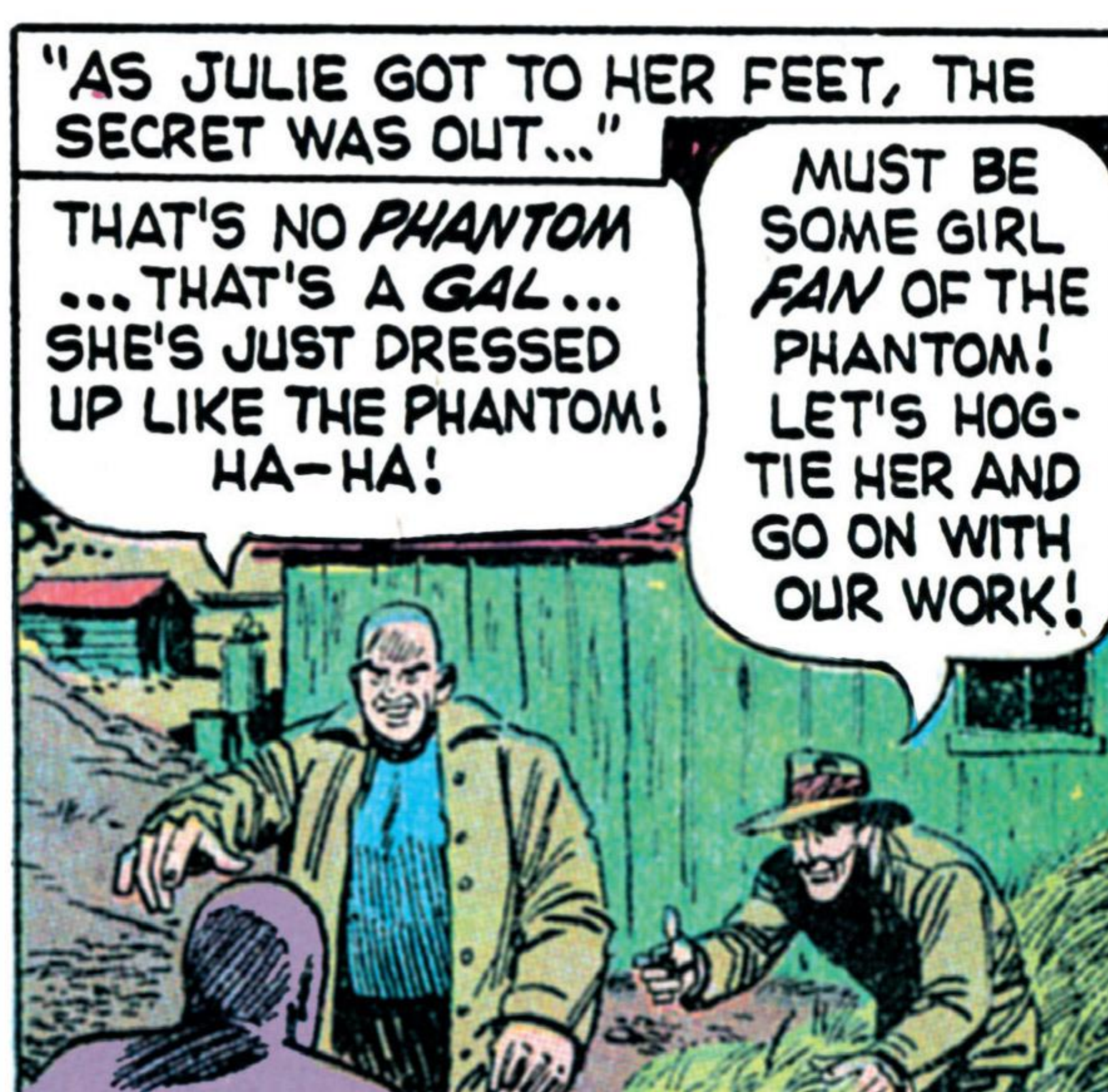
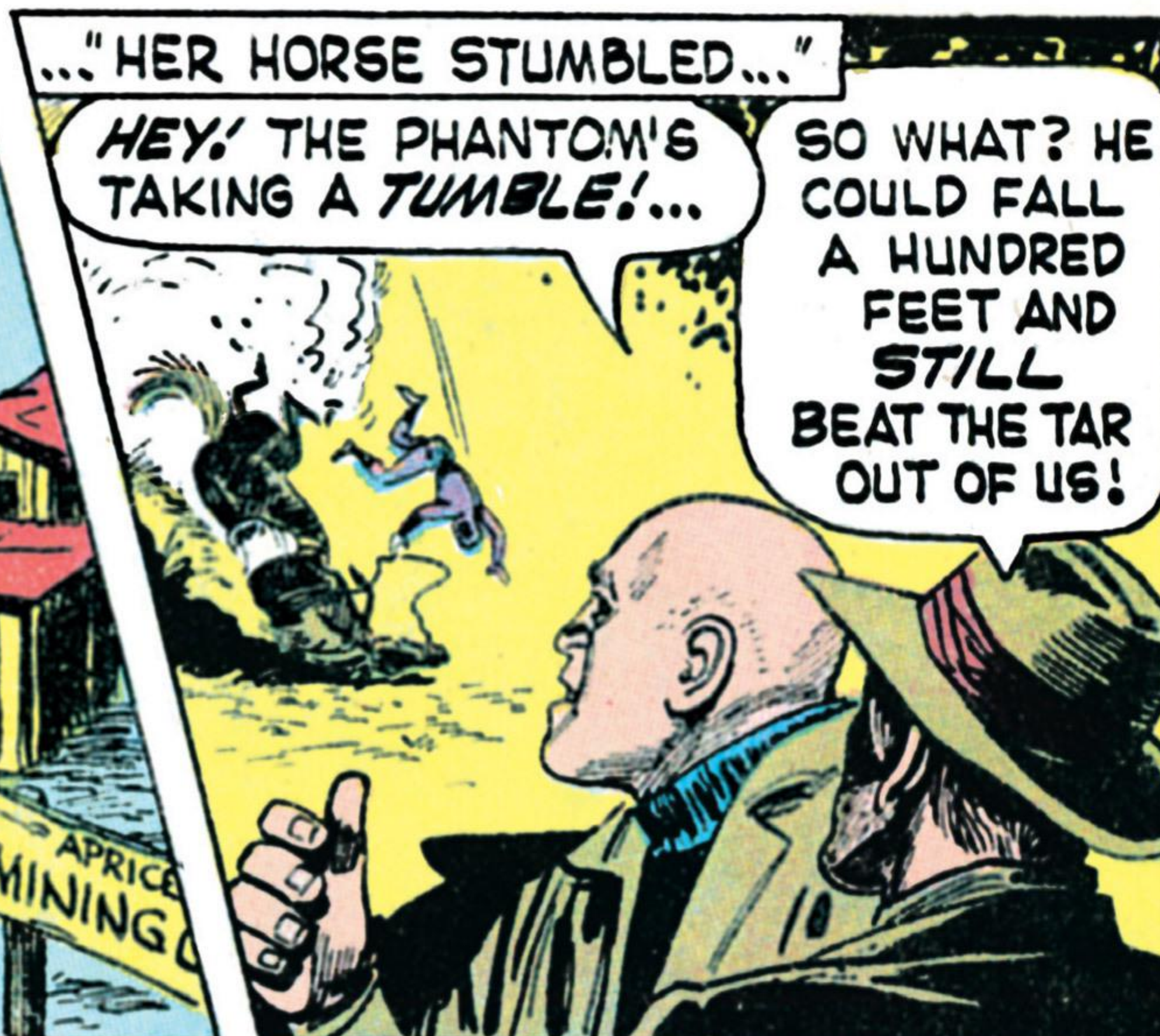
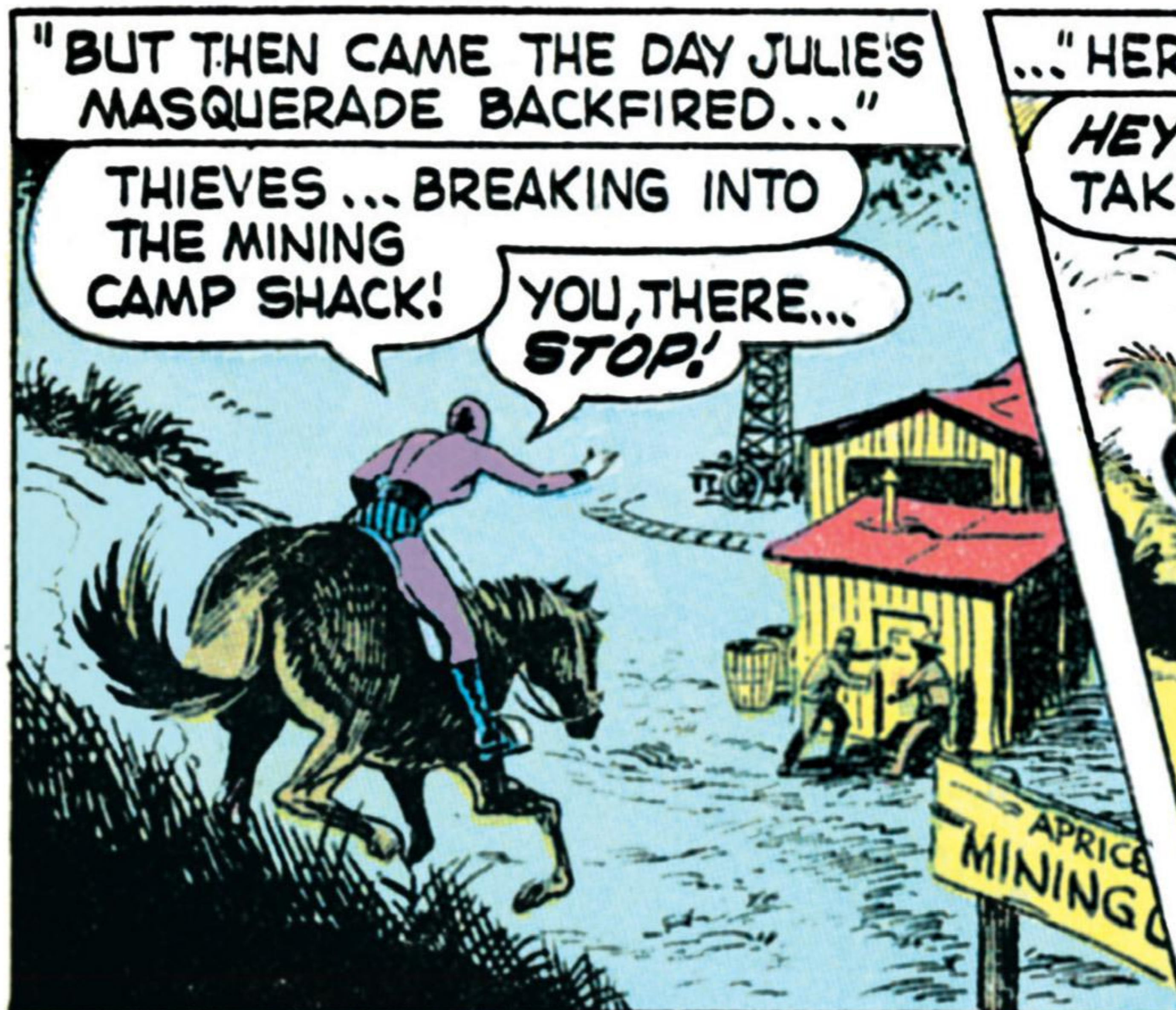
GOLLY... READ ON! LET'S  
SEE WHAT *HAPPENED!*













"BUT GRABBING EVEN A 'FAKE PHANTOM' IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE..."



"AFTERWARDS, SHE TOOK THEM TO THE COURT HOUSE OF THE NEAREST VILLAGE..."

MAYBE I'M NOT AS GOOD AS AN **ACTUAL** PHANTOM— BUT THESE TWO CHARACTERS WILL CERTAINLY **THINK** SO WHEN THEY COME TO!



"NEXT MORNING..."

L-LOOK! THE MARK OF THE **PHANTOM!**

CAPTURED FOR ATTEMPT TO ROB MINING CAMP.



JUST DON'T OPEN YOUR FLAPPER ABOUT ANY **GIRL** PHANTOM! WE'LL WAIT TILL LAMONT BAILS US OUT!

THINK I'M **CRAZY**? WHO'D BELIEVE A GIRL COULD DO **THIS** TO US?



"AND LATER, WHEN WHITE HUNTER DOD LAMONT ARRIVED AT THE COURT HOUSE..."

WHETHER THESE ARE PHANTOM PRISONERS OR NOT—YOU **HAVE** TO GET BAIL, JUDGE... IT'S THE **LAW!**

YES, IT IS... UNFORTUNATELY! BUT MAKE **SURE** THEY ARE IN COURT A WEEK FROM TODAY FOR TRIAL!





"AFTERWARD, THE RENEGADE WHITE HUNTER PUT HIS TWO HENCHMEN ON THE CARPET..."

SO YOU TWO CHARACTERS ARE GOING TO HELP ME FLEECE THE COASTAL VILLAGES OF SKINS AND DIAMONDS! I **TOLD** YOU FOOLS TO KEEP A **KEEN EYE** OUT FOR THE PHANTOM!

B-BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! IT—IT **WASN'T** THE PHANTOM...



JUST WHAT IN THUNDER DO YOU **MEAN**, CHIGGER?

W-WELL, IT WAS SOMEBODY **DRESSED** LIKE THE PHANTOM—BUT IT **WASN'T** HIM! IT WAS... WELL, IT WAS...



...A **GIRL**!

A **WHAT**?!



TH-THAT'S **RIGHT**, MR. LAMONT... A GIRL... IN A PHANTOM COSTUME!

OH, HA-HA! HEE-HEEE! A GIRL—A **GIRL PHANTOM**! YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!



OH, HO-HO! TWO OF THE TOUGHEST CRITTERS IN BENGALI BEING HOG-TIED BY A PAIR OF **HIGH HEELS**! HEE-HEE! I'VE SURE GOT MYSELF A COUPLE OF **RED HOT** PARTNERS IN CRIME!

SH-SHE WAS TOUGH AS NAILS, LAMONT! CUT IT OUT!





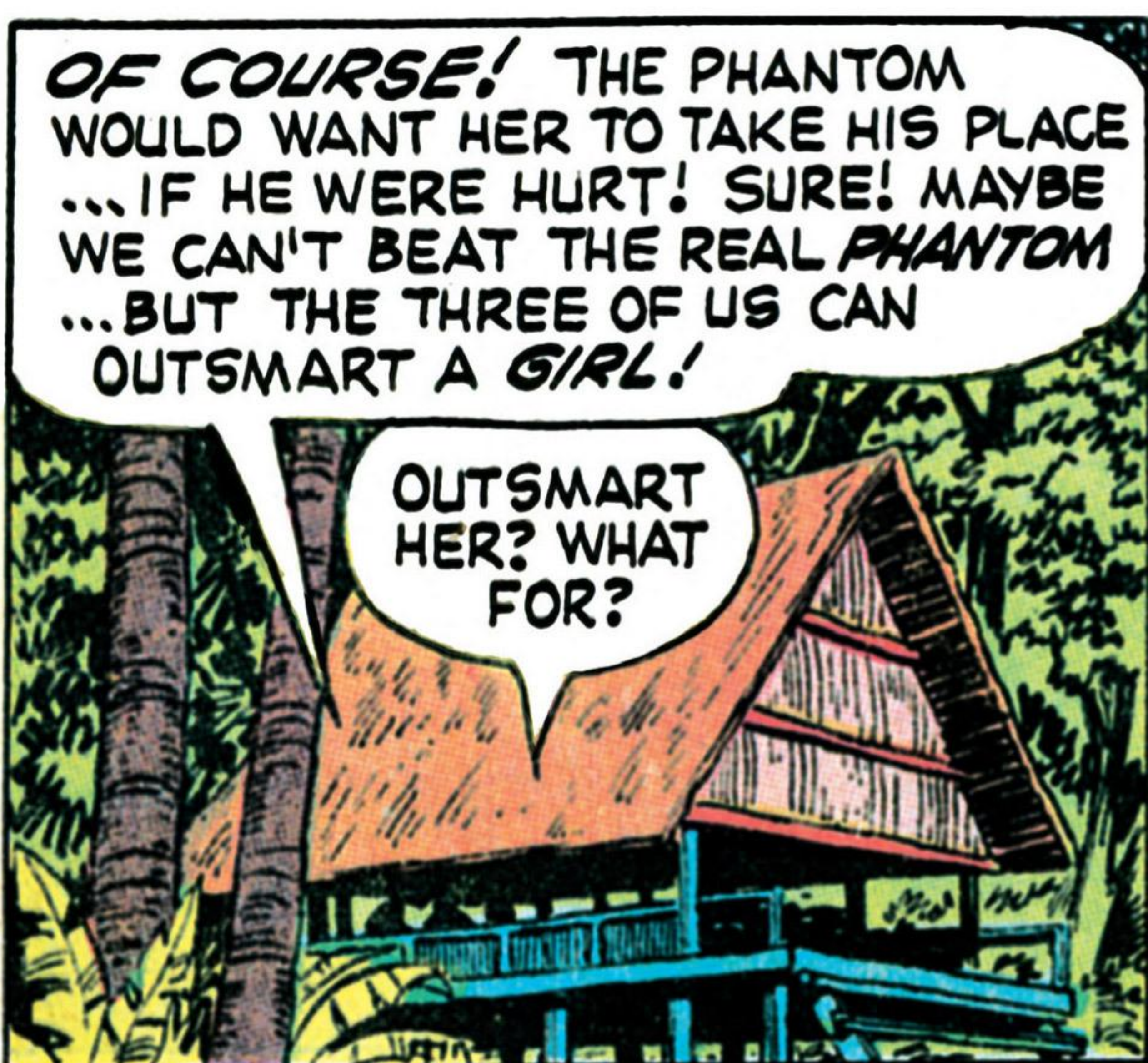


I'M TELLING YA SHE WAS TOUGHER THAN ANY CHARACTER WE **EVER** RAN INTO! SHE COULD MOVE LIKE A PANTHER AND HIT LIKE A BULL APE!

THAT'S *RIGHT!* SHE MUSTA BEEN THE PHANTOM'S *SISTER* OR SOMETHING!



SHE WAS *THAT* TOUGH, EH?... AND SHE WAS DRESSED ALL SLICK AND CLEAN LIKE THE PHANTOM *HIMSELF!* HMMM! MAYBE WE'VE *GOT* SOMETHING HERE! MAYBE SHE *IS* THE PHANTOM'S SISTER!



*OF COURSE!* THE PHANTOM WOULD WANT HER TO TAKE HIS PLACE ...IF HE WERE HURT! SURE! MAYBE WE CAN'T BEAT THE REAL *PHANTOM* ...BUT THE THREE OF US CAN OUTSMART A *GIRL!*

OUTSMART HER? WHAT FOR?

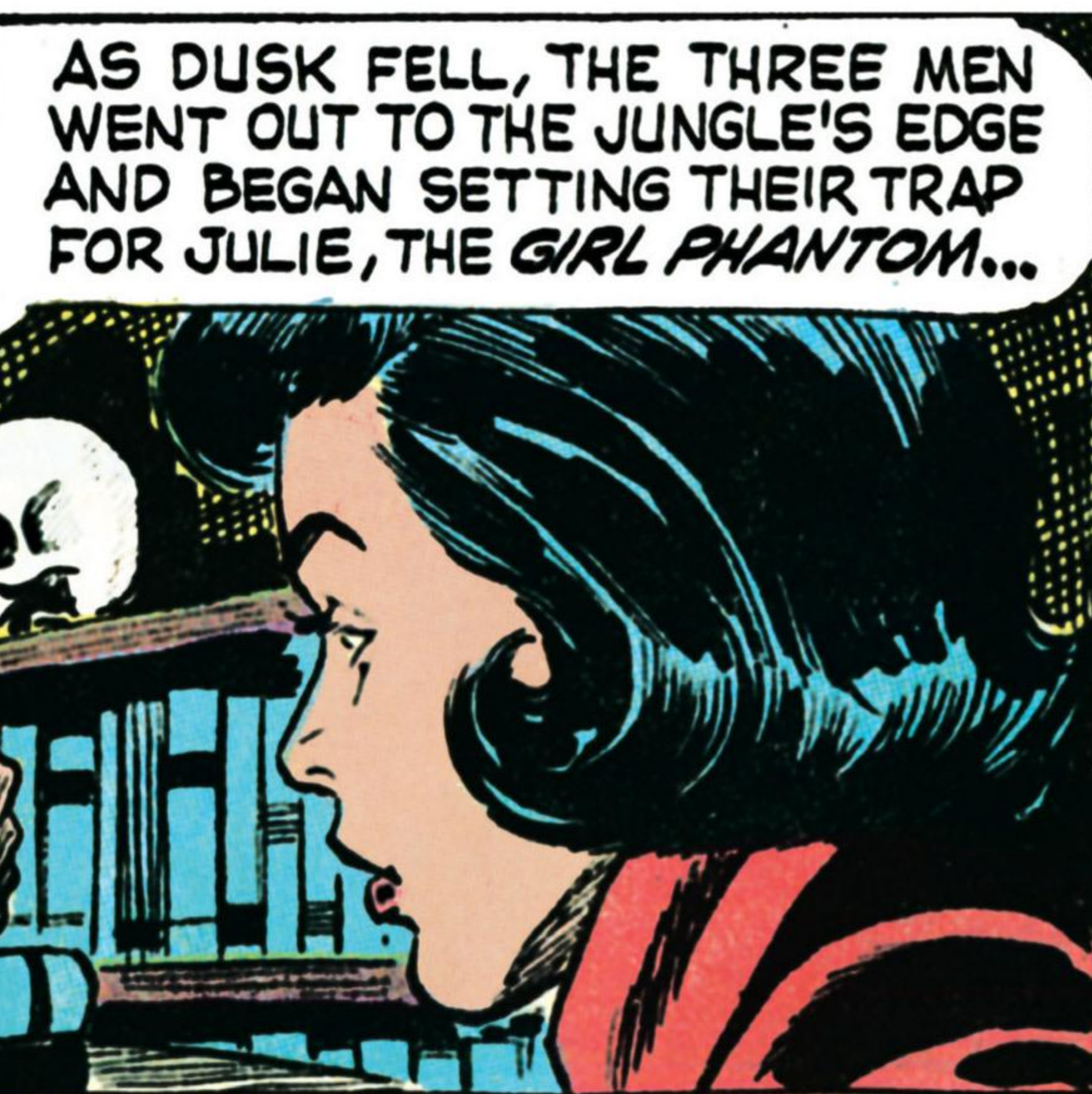


BECAUSE, MY DEAR CHIGGER, WHO-EVER CAN LOCATE THE PHANTOM'S HEADQUARTERS AND GAIN POSSESSION OF HIS *SECRETS* WILL HAVE THIS WHOLE JUNGLE EATING OUT OF HIS HAND!

COME ALONG, DOLTS ...WE HAVE *WORK* TO DO!

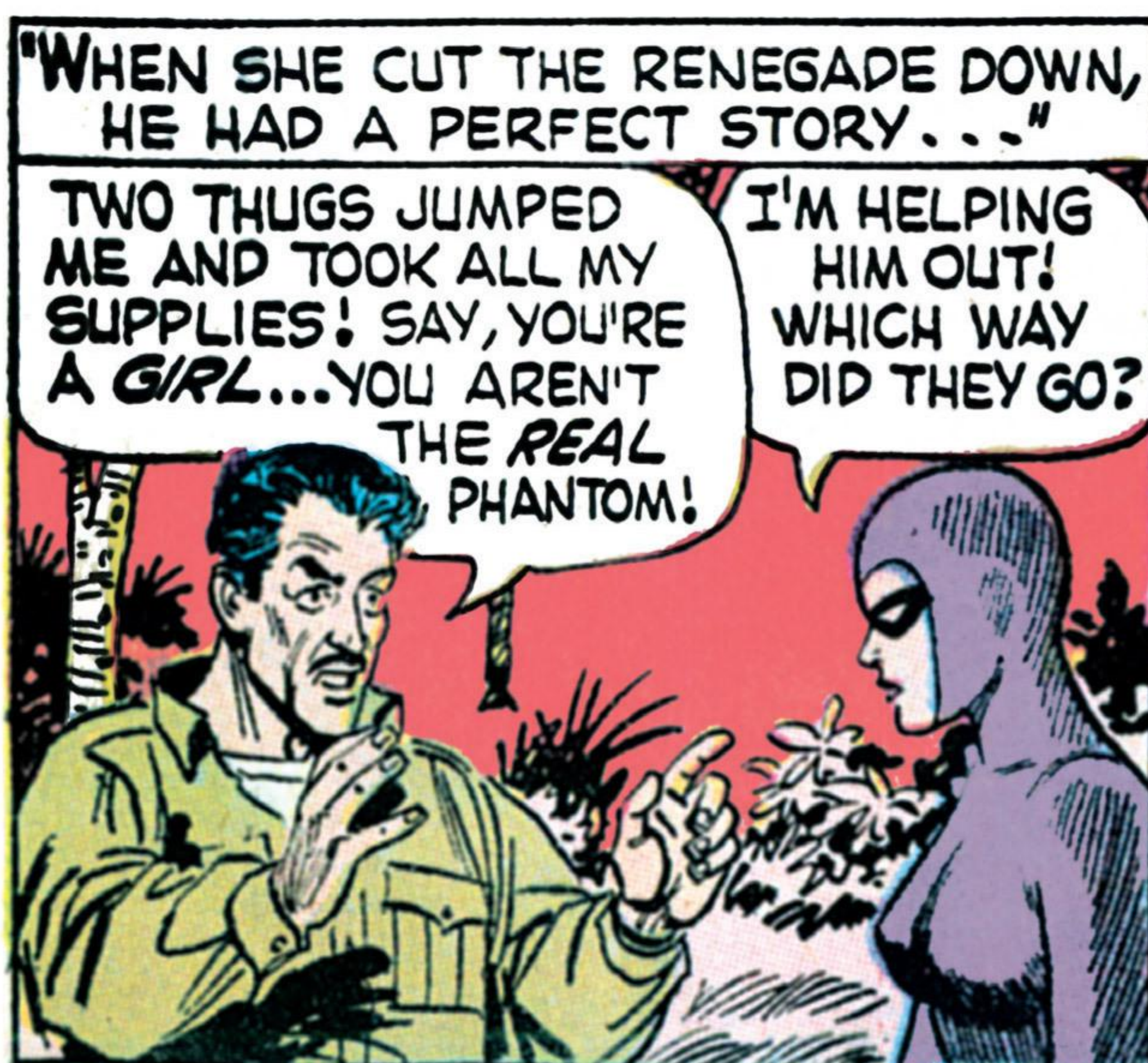
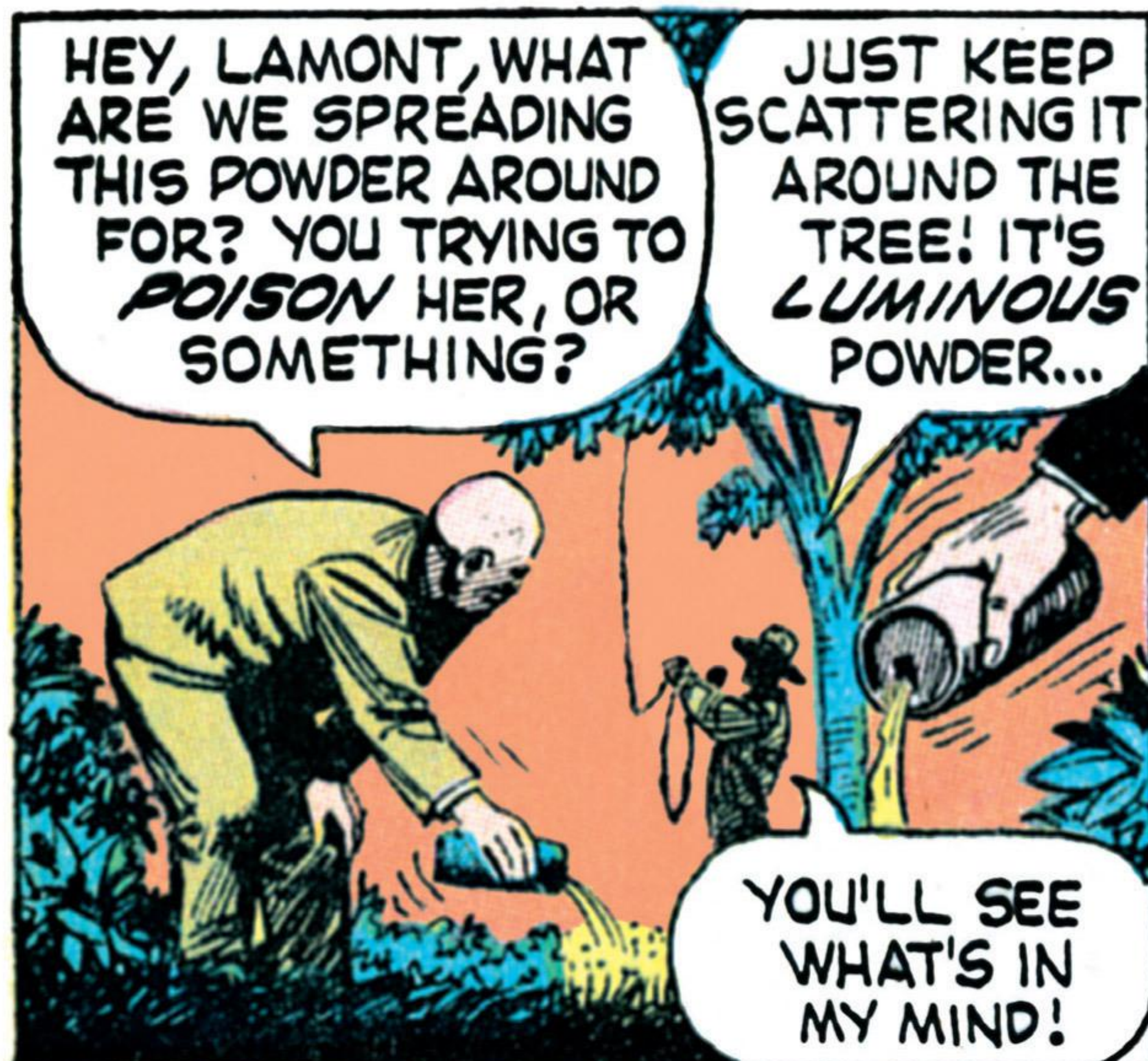


IN THE EERIE DIMNESS OF THE SKULL CAVE, OUR PHANTOM CONTINUES READING OF HIS ANCESTOR...



AS DUSK FELL, THE THREE MEN WENT OUT TO THE JUNGLE'S EDGE AND BEGAN SETTING THEIR TRAP FOR JULIE, THE *GIRL PHANTOM*...







"AS JULIE LEFT, LAMONT'S CUNNING PLAN SNAPPED INTO ACTION . . ."

KEEP DOWN UNTIL SHE'S OUT OF SIGHT, YOU IDIOTS! NOW YOU'LL SEE WHAT I HAVE IN MIND! SHE'S FALLEN INTO OUR TRAP!



SEE, MY STUPID FRIENDS, LUMINOUS HOOF PRINTS! WHEN IT GETS DARKER, WE'LL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW HER WHEREVER SHE GOES!

WOW! AND SHE CAN'T SEE 'EM HERSELF BECAUSE IT ISN'T DARK ENOUGH!



THAT'S RIGHT! AND SOONER OR LATER, SOME TIME TONIGHT, SHE'LL RETURN TO THE REAL PHANTOM'S HIDEOUT! AND ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FOLLOW THE GLOWING HOOFPRIINTS!

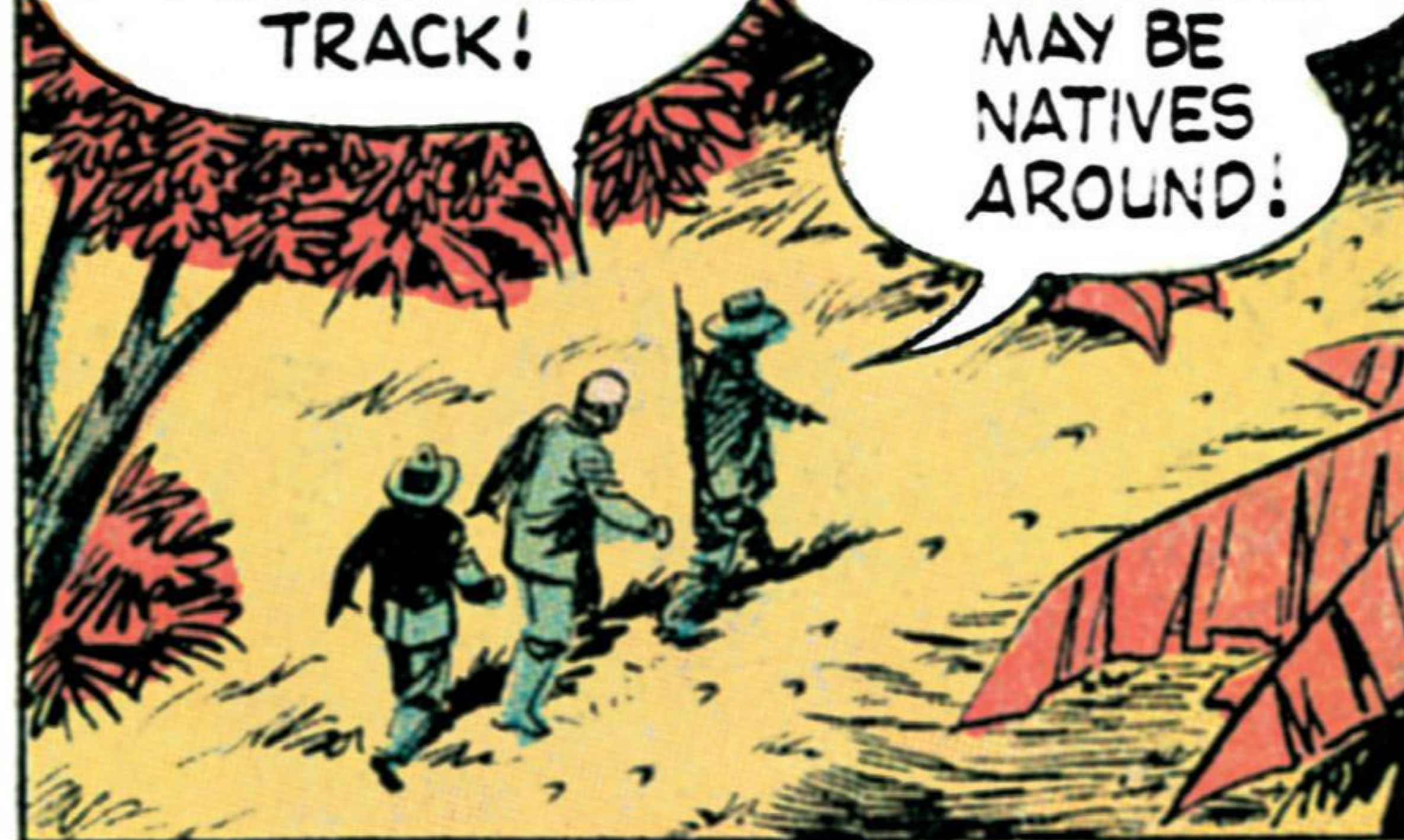
YEAH...TO A FORTUNE IN PHANTOM SECRETS!



"LATER, THE TRIO TOOK OFF IN THE DARKNESS . . ."

THEY'RE BRIGHT AS DAY...A BLIND MAN COULD FOLLOW THIS TRACK!

KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN, YOU DUNDER-HEAD! THERE MAY BE NATIVES AROUND!



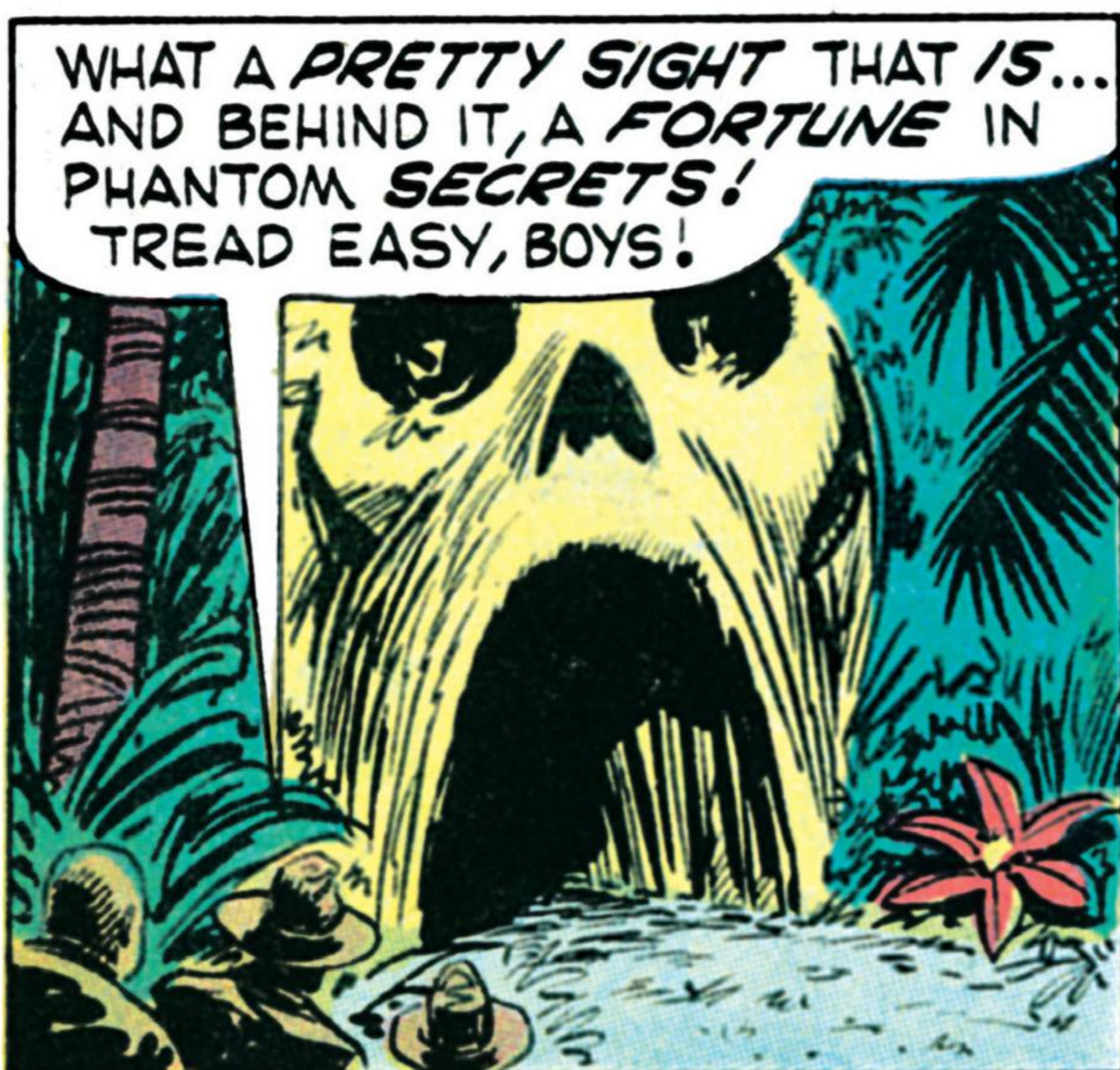
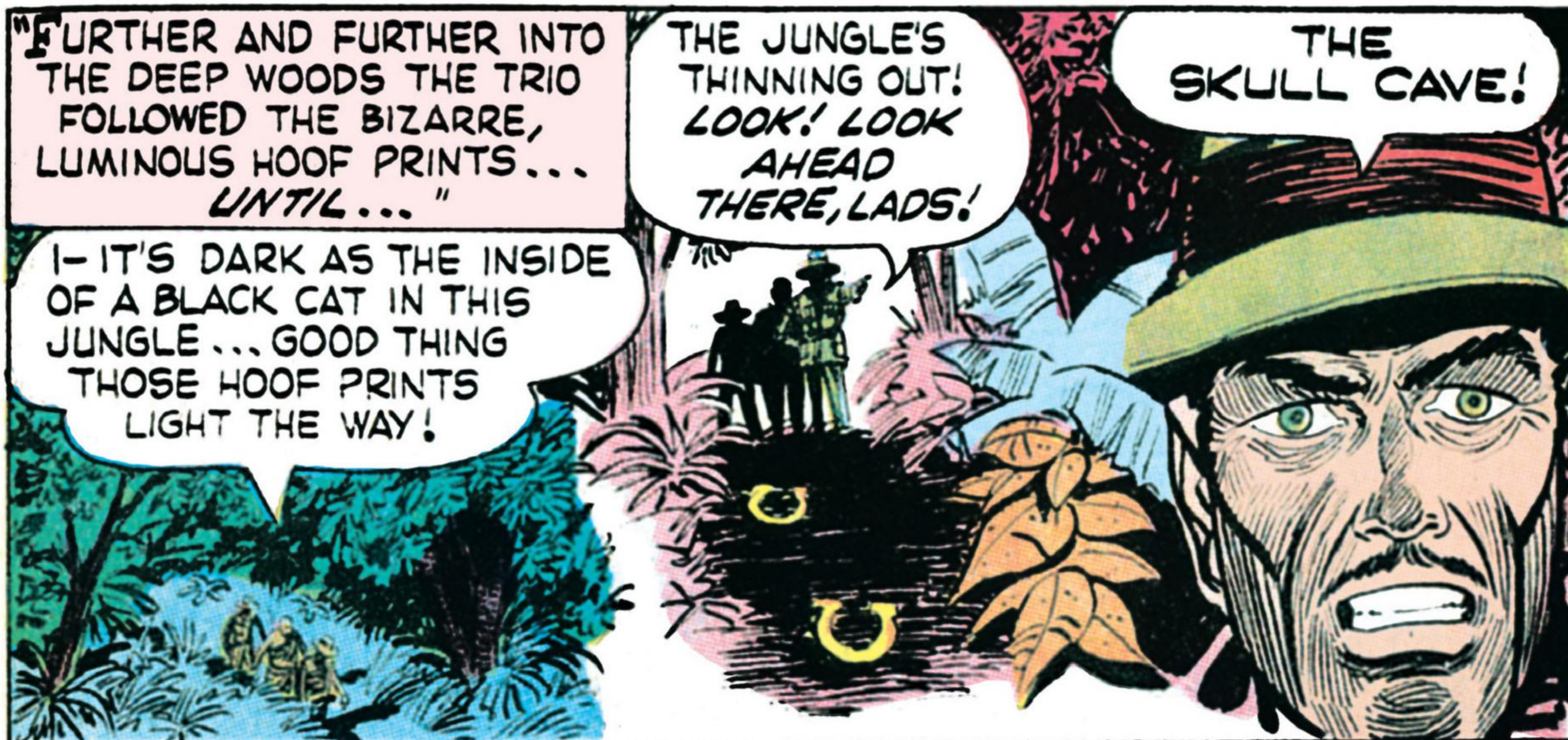
"FOR THREE HOURS THEY FOLLOWED THE PRINTS, UNTIL..."

HEY! SHE WENT THROUGH A STREAM...THAT'LL WASH THE LUMINOUS PRINTS OFF THE HORSE'S HOOFS, WON'T IT, LAMONT?

THERE *SHOULD* BE ENOUGH GLOW LEFT TO FOLLOW! LOOK... OVER THERE ON THE OTHER BANK... WE CAN PICK THEM UP AGAIN!





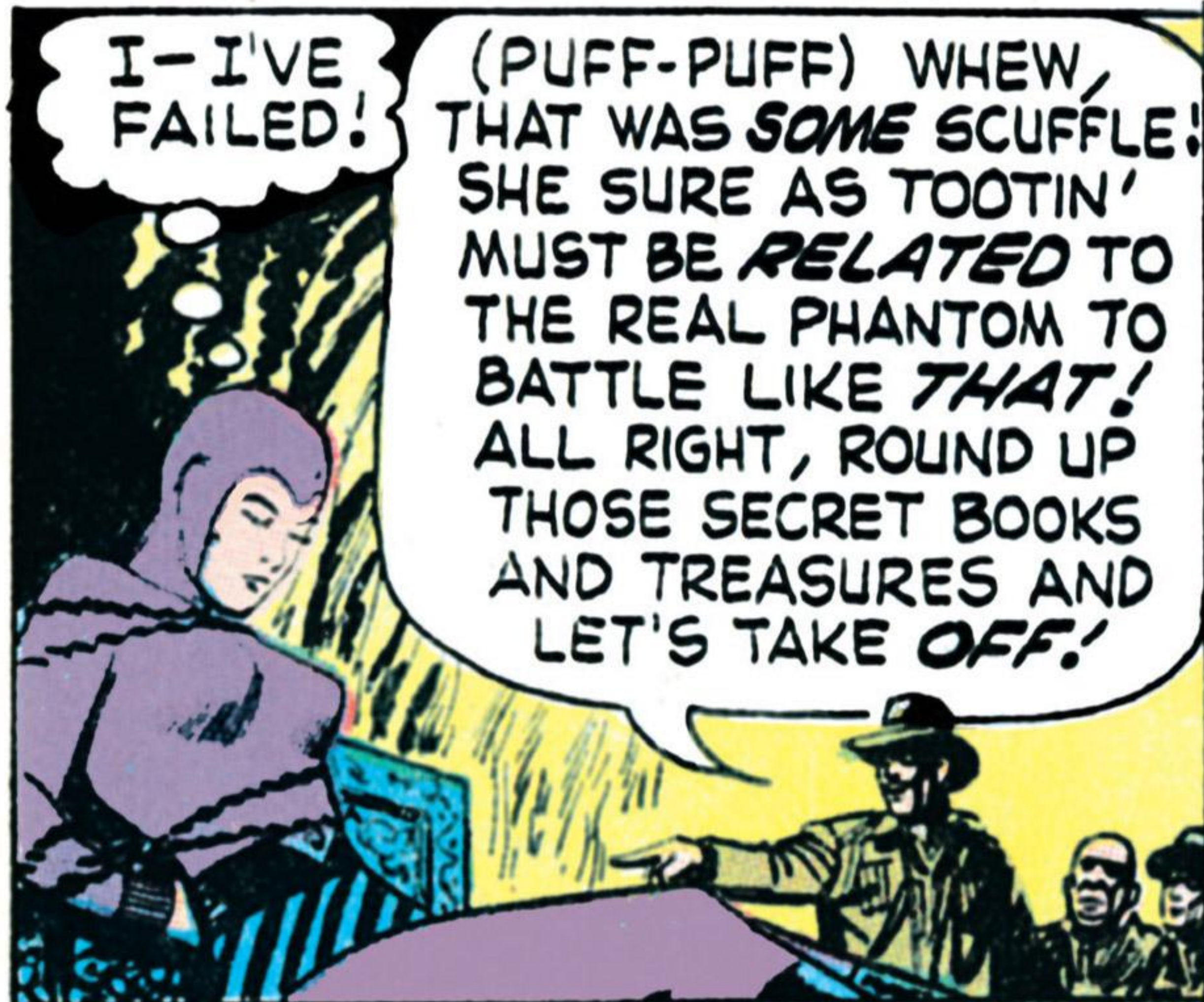








"BUT JULIE WAS NOT THE *TRUE* PHANTOM...AND FINALLY...



TH-THEY MUST HAVE FOLLOWED *ME* HERE...THE SKULL CAVE *LOOTED*... AND IT'S *MY* FAULT! I *MUSTN'T* LET THEM GET AWAY WITH IT!



"AS THE GIRL PHANTOM'S WHISTLE ECHOED THROUGH THE SKULL CAVE A FORM CAME BOUNDING... FURY, HER PET AND PROTECTOR..."





AND THOSE GLOWING TRACKS  
ARE THEIR ONLY GUIDE *OUT*  
OF THE DEEP WOODS!  
LET'S FOLLOW *THEM*,  
BOY!

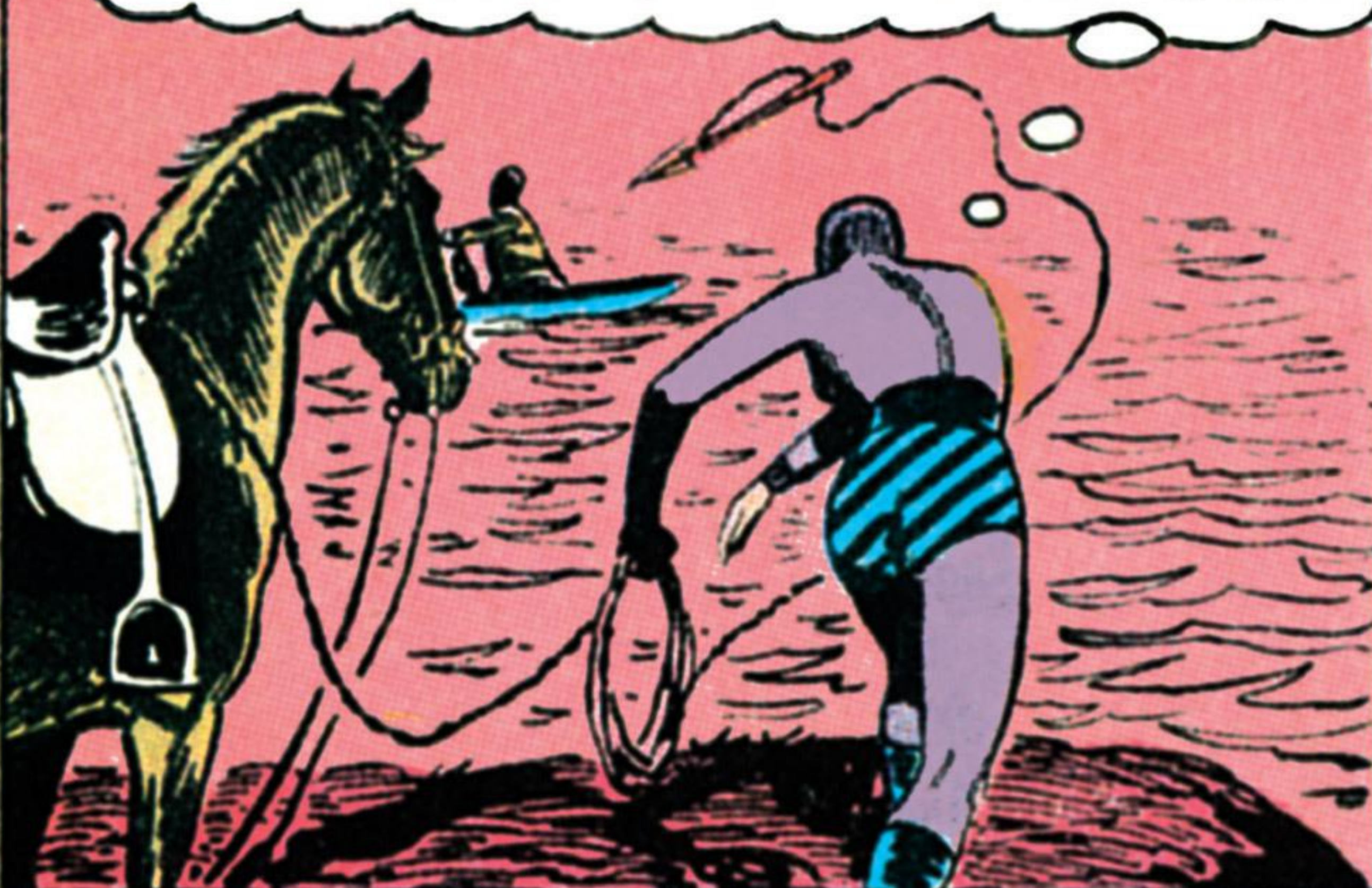


"FOR FIVE...TEN...FIFTEEN MINUTES  
JULIE RODE...THEN..."

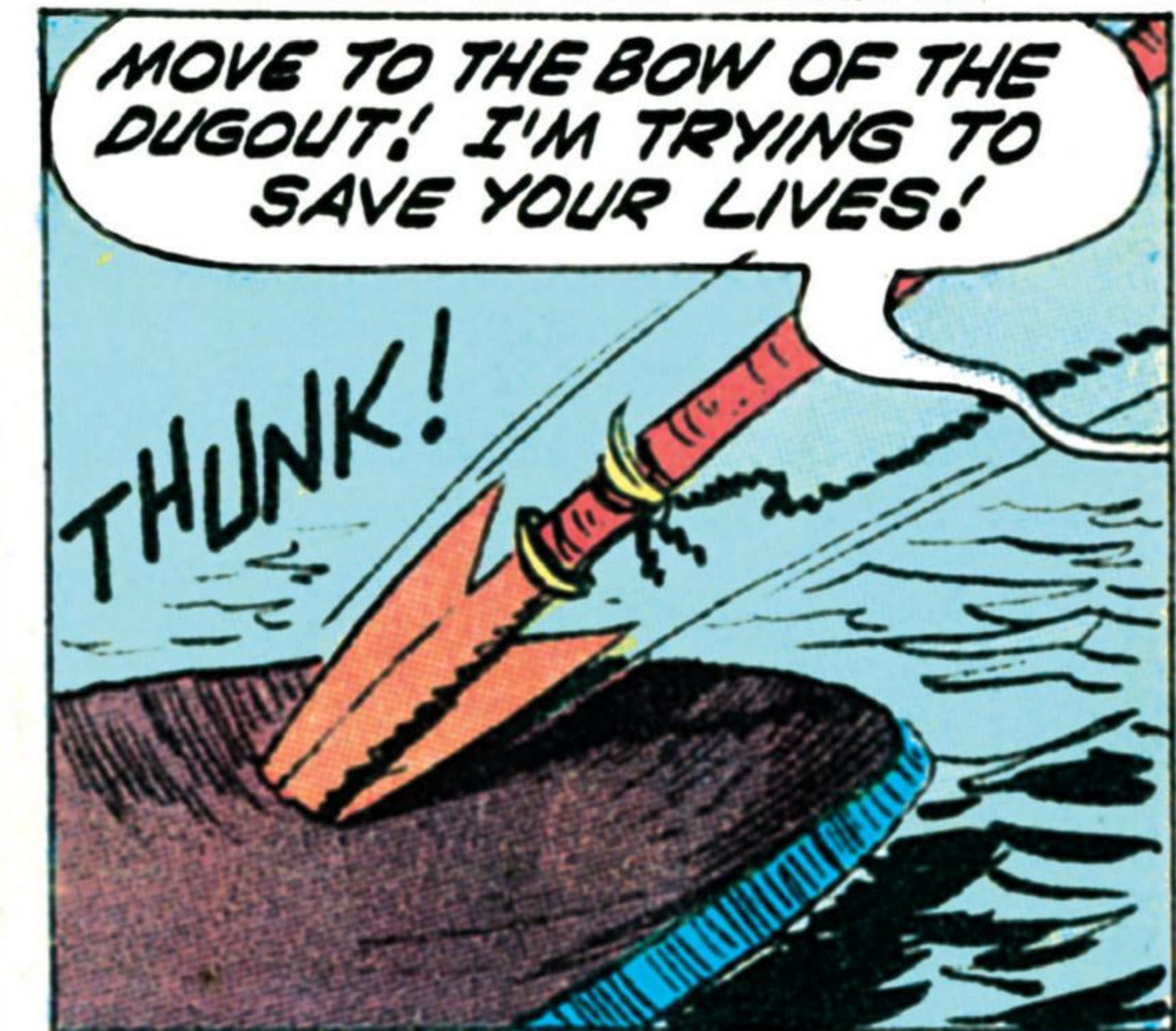


TH-THEY'VE STOLEN A BANDAR DUGOUT...  
TRYING TO ESCAPE DOWN THE *RAPIDS*!

"QUICKLY, THE GIRL PHANTOM MOVED  
INTO ACTION..." THE THIEVING FOOLS...  
EVEN THE NATIVES DON'T DARE RUN  
THOSE RAPIDS! GOT TO STOP THEM!



"A PERFECT TOSS SPED THE  
SPEAR TO ITS MARK..."



MOVE TO THE BOW OF THE  
DUGOUT! I'M TRYING TO  
SAVE YOUR LIVES!

"THE SPEAR HEAD BIT  
DEEP IN THE WOODEN HULL,  
AND THE LINE HELD...*BUT*..."

SHE'S OUT TO  
SABOTAGE US,  
CHIGGER!

*NO! NO!* YOU IDIOTS!  
STAY PUT UNTIL I CAN  
PULL YOU! ASHORE!





"SUDDENLY, A SURGING  
CURRENT STRUCK..."

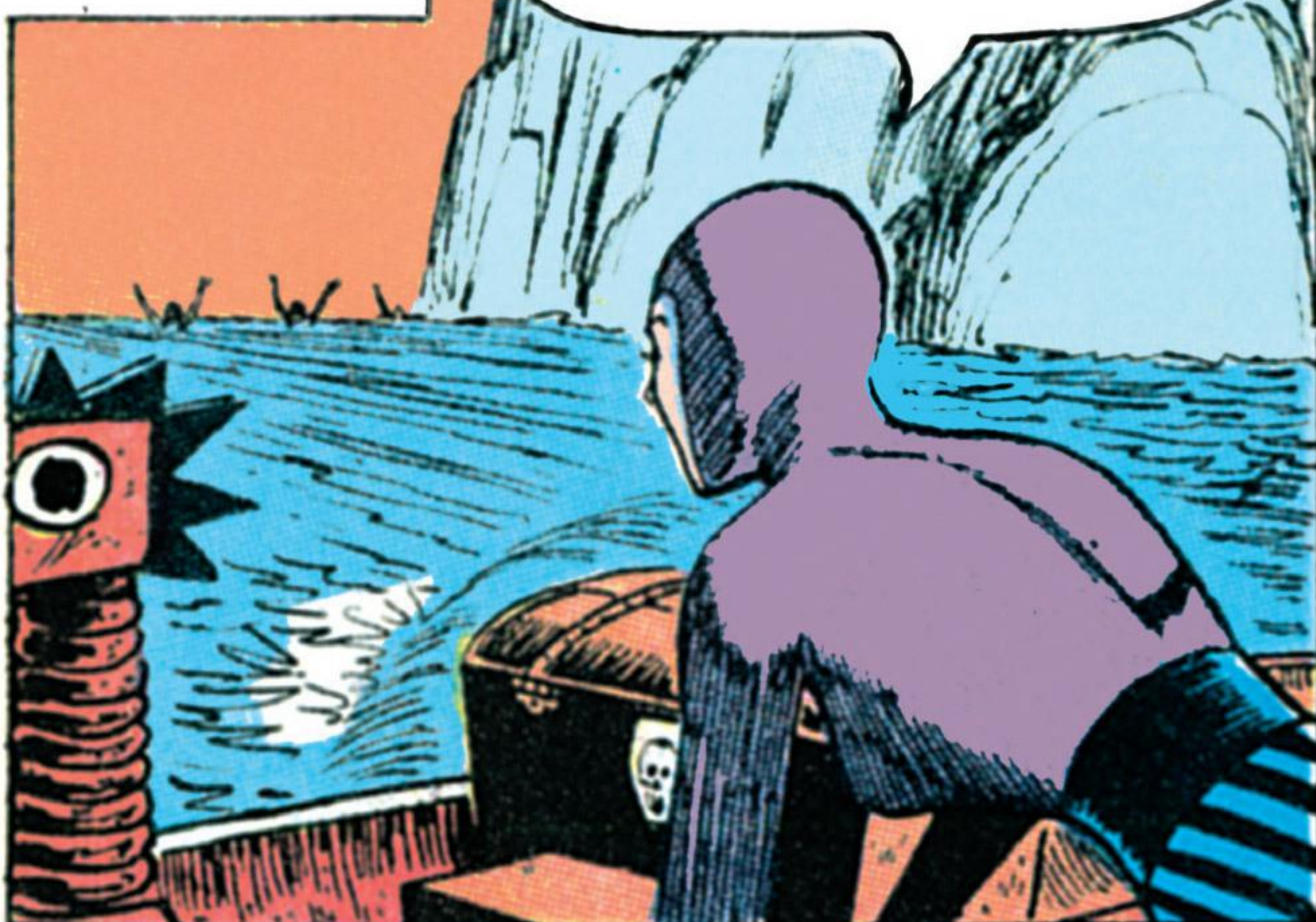
OH-H! TH-THEY WOULDN'T  
LISTEN TO ME!  
*PULL, BOY! PULL!*

*YAAA-YIIII!*



"WHEN THE  
DUGOUT WAS  
ASHORE..."

NOTHING CAN SAVE  
THEM NOW...THE FALLS  
ARE DEAD AHEAD!



BUT THEY WERE EVIL MEN...AND  
NOW THE SECRETS OF THE SKULL  
CAVE ARE SAFE! IT...WAS *FATE!*



"AND LATER..."

PHANTOM MUCH  
BETTER, MISSY  
JULIE! GETTING  
STRENGTH BACK!

GUESS I'VE BURNED  
THAT JUNGLE FEVER  
OFF, JULIE! BUT I'VE  
BEEN WORRIED  
ABOUT *YOU!* THINGS  
MUST BE MIGHTY  
DULL WITH ME ILL!

*VERY* DULL, KIT...



BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE WELL AGAIN  
WE'LL HAVE *LOTS* OF EXCITEMENT  
AGAIN SOON, *WON'T* WE?





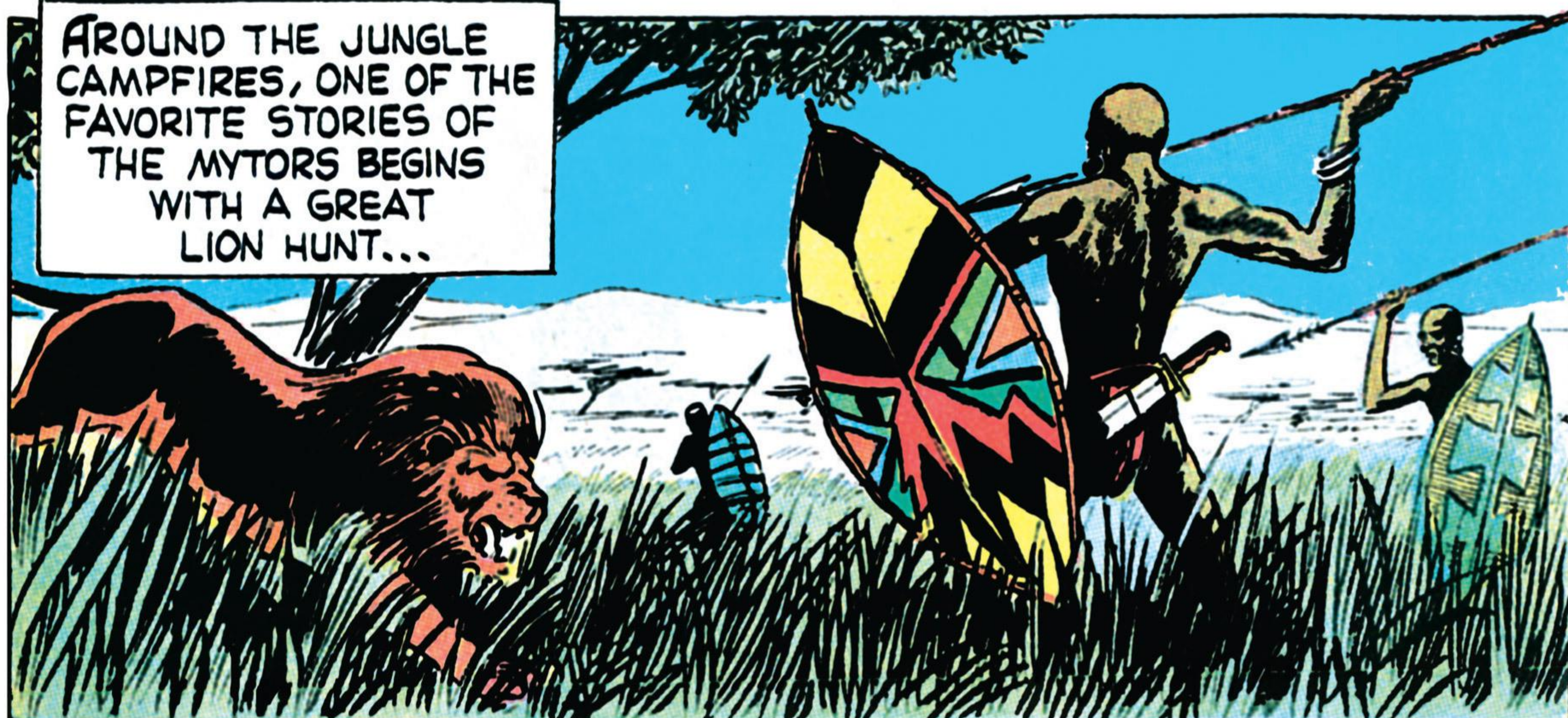
# The PHANTOM The INVISIBLE DEMON

**B**EING VERY OLD, MOST JUNGLE LEGENDS INVOLVE DRAGONS, WITCHES AND OTHER PRIMITIVE FORCES OF EVIL! BUT SOME ARE SURPRISINGLY MODERN AND INCLUDE MACHINES AND CREATURES BEYOND OUR OWN CIVILIZATION! NEW OR OLD, THOUGH, MOST OF THEM HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON...THE LEGENDARY GHOST WHO WALKS!



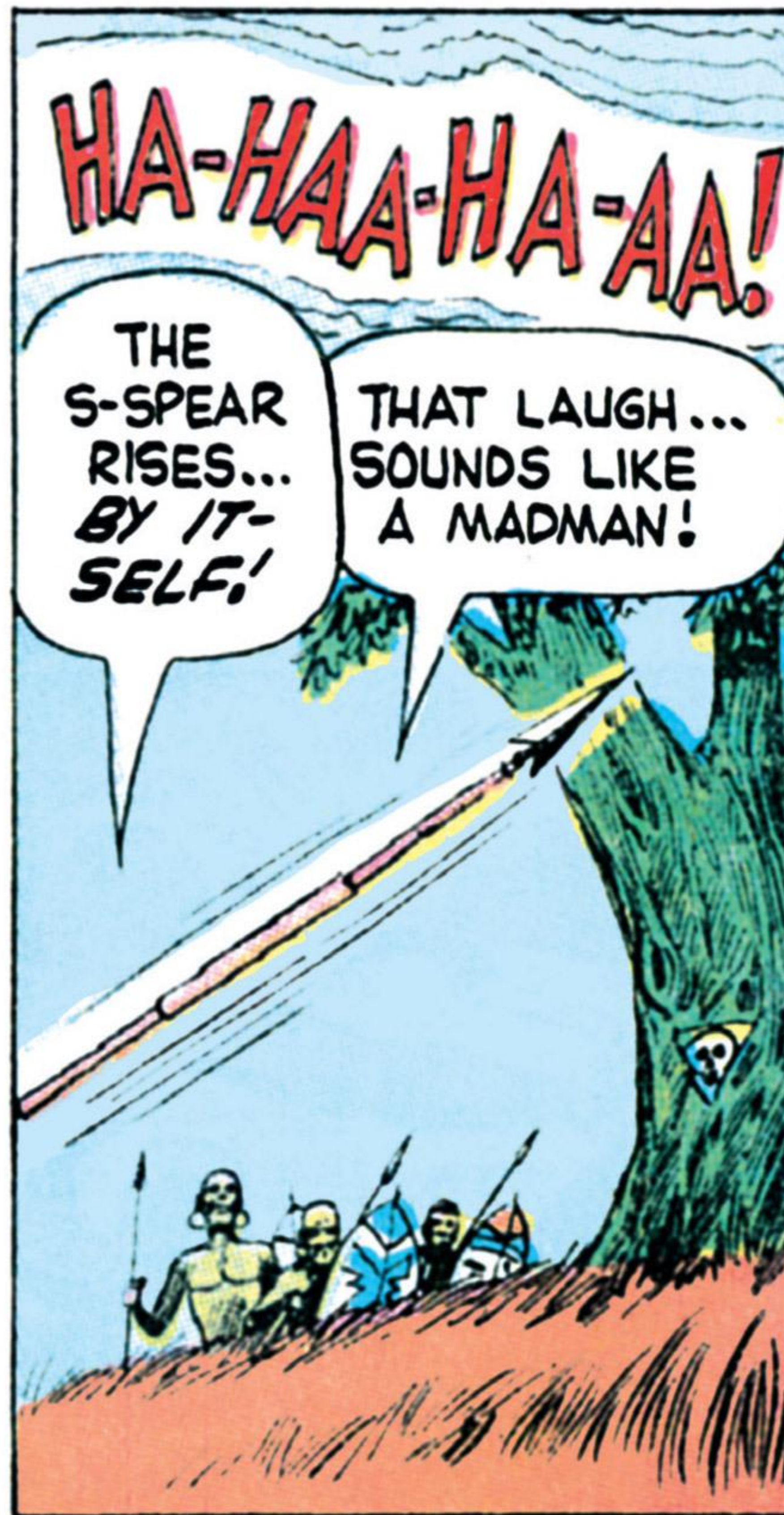
ONE SUCH MODERN JUNGLE LEGEND TELLS OF A RACE OF MEN WHO LIVE DEEP WITHIN THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH...THE MYTORS! HOW THE STORY BEGAN IS AS MYSTERIOUS AS THE MYTORS THEMSELVES! ... HOW TRUE THE STORY IS, ONLY THE PHANTOM KNOWS FOR SURE...

AROUND THE JUNGLE CAMPFIRES, ONE OF THE FAVORITE STORIES OF THE MYTORS BEGINS WITH A GREAT LION HUNT...

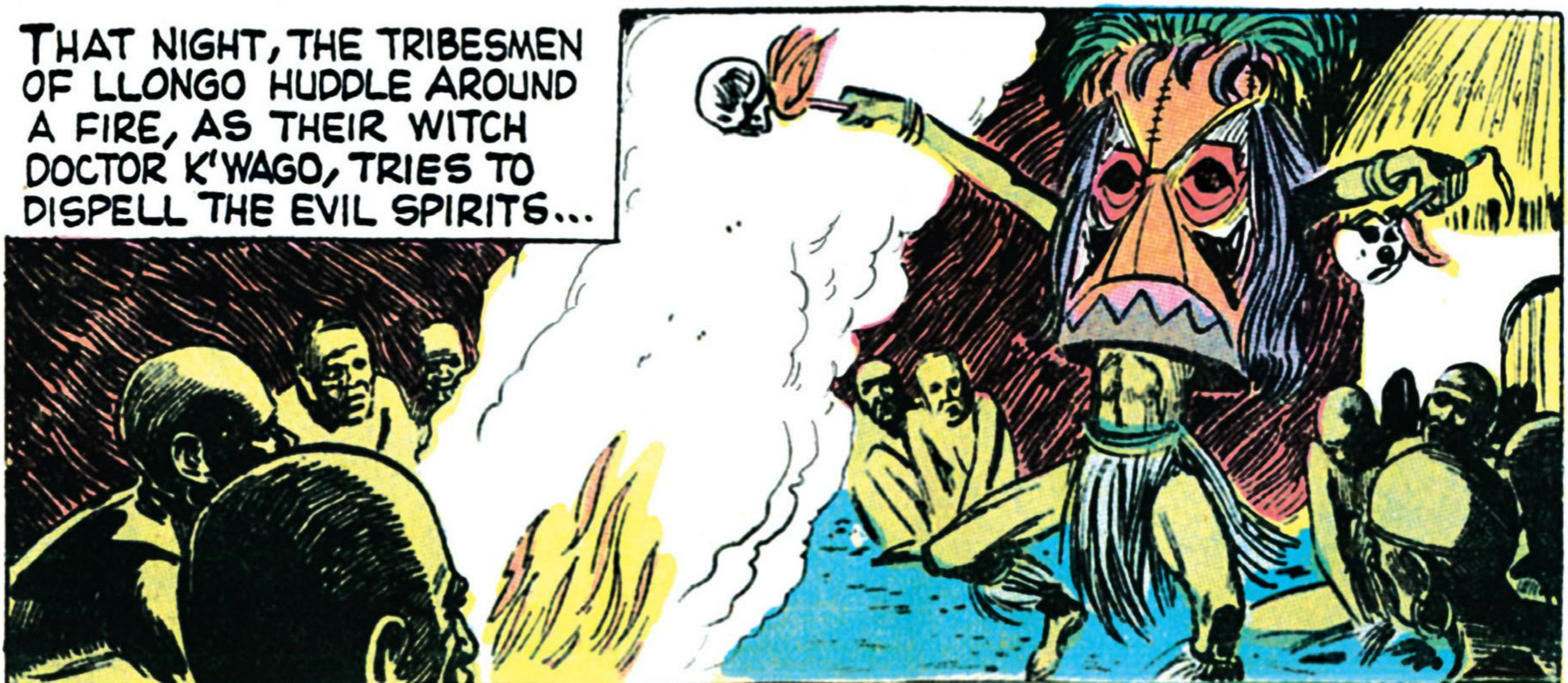




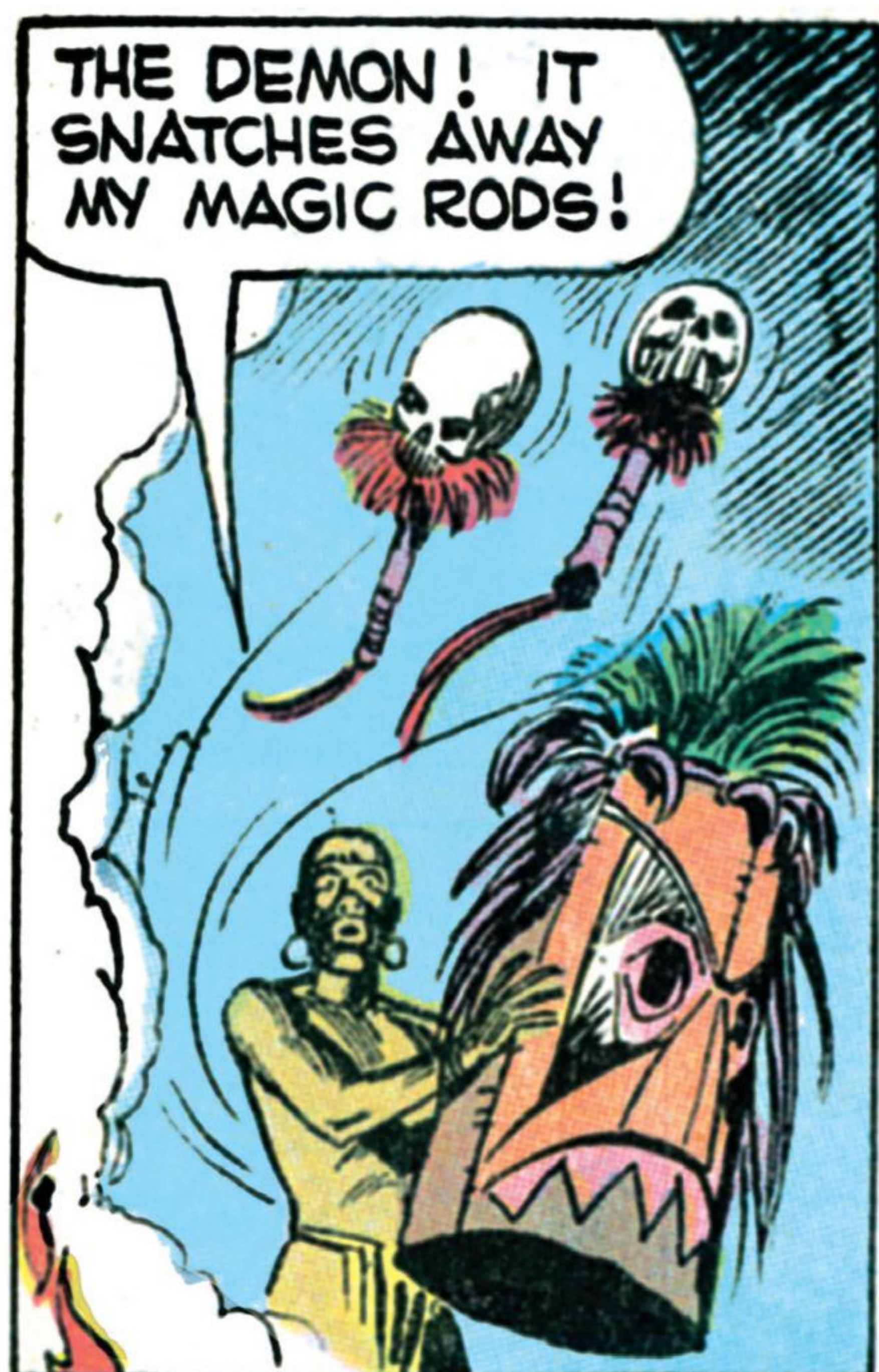
...WHEN MABAWA, BRAVEST OF ALL HUNTERS IS SNATCHED INTO THE AIR LIKE A RAG DOLL BY AN INVISIBLE HAND...



THAT NIGHT, THE TRIBESMEN OF LLONGO HUDDLE AROUND A FIRE, AS THEIR WITCH DOCTOR K'WAGO, TRIES TO DISPELL THE EVIL SPIRITS...













BAFFLED AS THE  
NATIVES, HERO AND  
DEVIL CHARGE  
ALONG BEHIND THEIR  
MYSTERIOUSLY  
AIRBORNE MASTER...

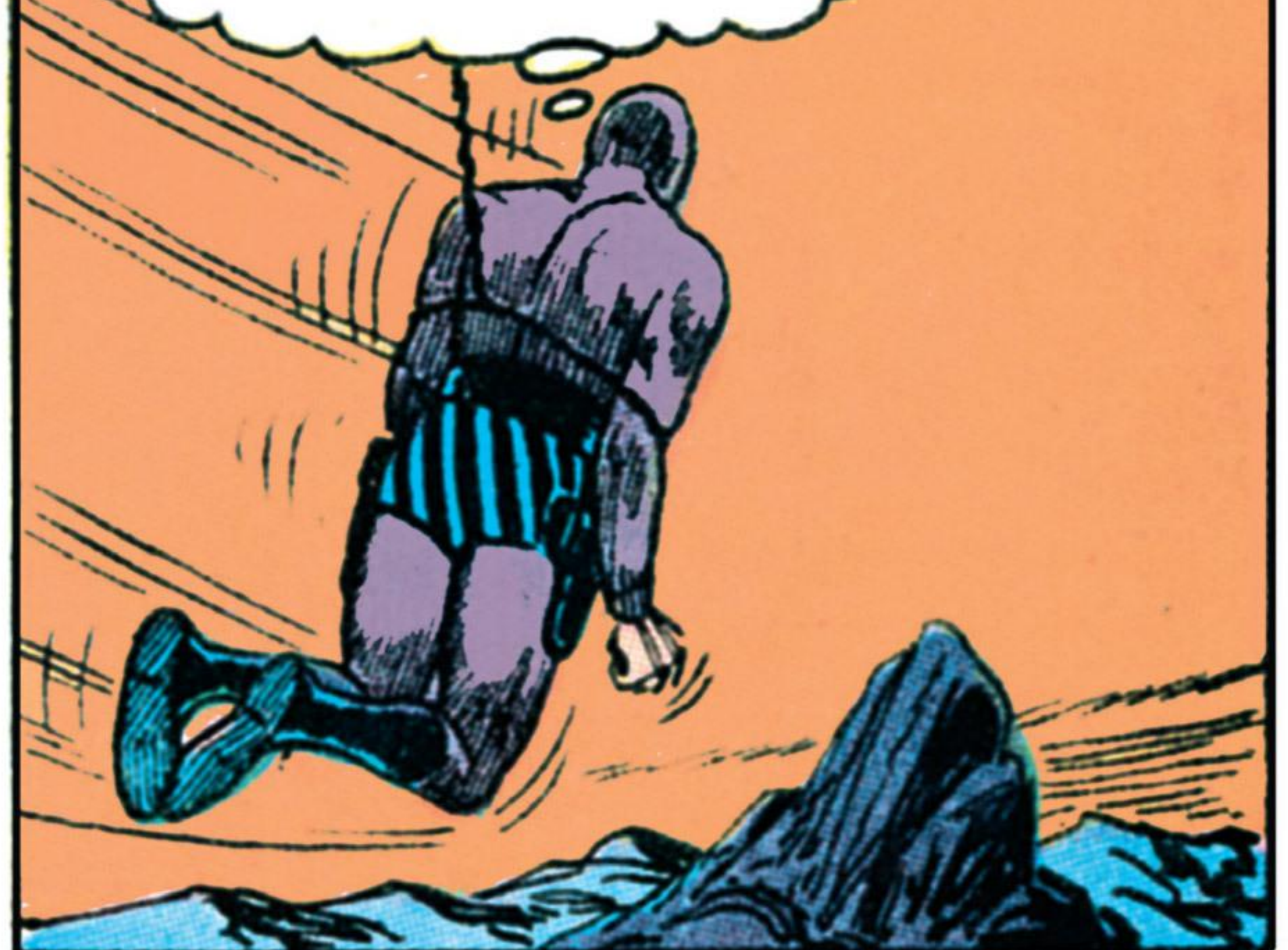


WRRR-RRR-RRR-

I THINK I UNDERSTAND! THAT  
OVERHEAD NOISE ... THE GREAT  
BREEZE ... COULD BE CAUSED BY  
TWIRLING *HELICOPTER*  
BLADES!

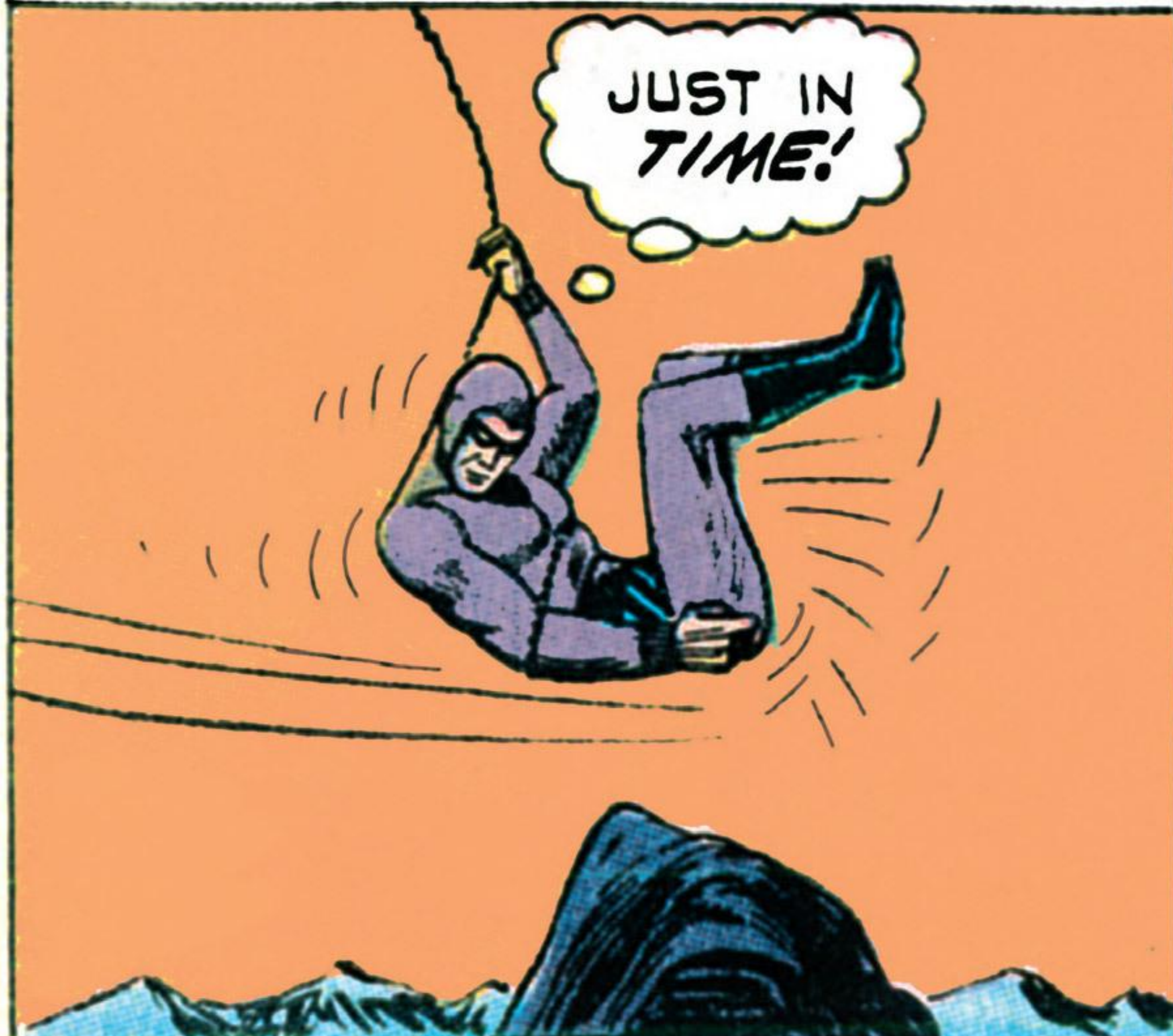


OH-OH! I'M BEING FLOWN  
DIRECTLY AT THAT  
MOUNTAIN PEAK!



TWISTING DESPERATELY, *THE  
PHANTOM* MANAGES TO FREE  
HIS ARM, AND THEN...

JUST IN  
*TIME!*

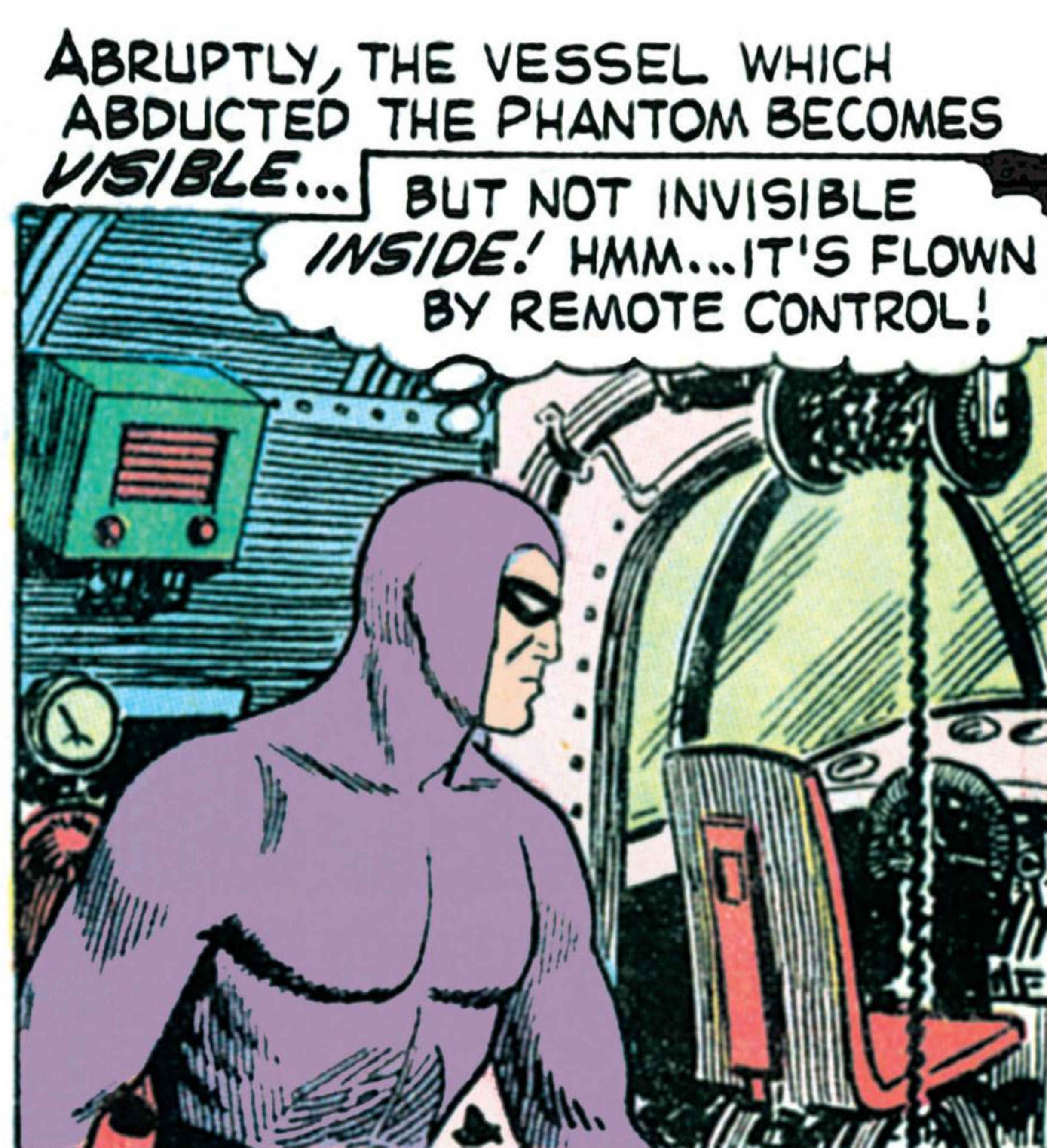


HA-HAA-AAA-

NOW TO FIND OUT  
WHO'S BEHIND  
ALL THIS... AND  
*WHY!*







SUDDENLY, A LOUD-SPEAKER CLICKS ON ...AS THE CABIN BEGINS TO FILL WITH THICK, CHOKING GAS FLAMES...



THE PHANTOM REVIVES AT THE BOTTOM OF A CONCRETE PIT. HIS GUNS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY...







"THE GENIUS WHO PERISHED BECAUSE OF YOU WAS DR. *EMIL* L.C. KRAZZ, MY FATHER! WITH HIS SOLAR-RAY MACHINE... HE FORCED THE NATIVES TO WORK FOR HIM, AND WHEN THEY REVOLTED..."



BACK INTO THE MINES! I'VE BURNED YOUR VILLAGE! OBEY, OR I'LL DESTROY THE ENTIRE *JUNGLE*! HA-HA!



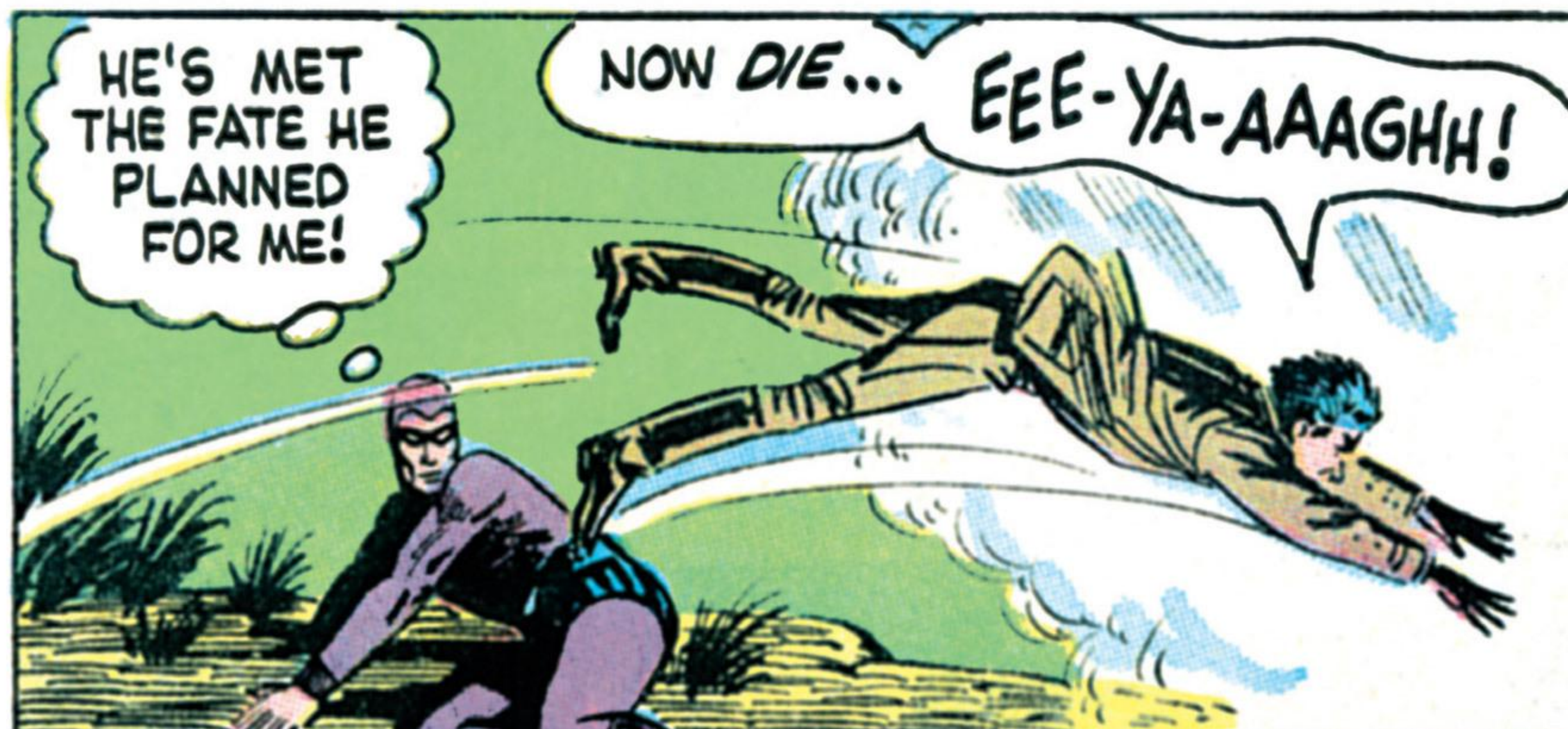
"THEN YOU FLASHED TO THE ATTACK, LIKE AN AVENGING BOLT..."



A JUNGLE PATROL CELL IS WAITING FOR YOU, MADMAN!



"YES, I KNEW HE DIED WHEN HE TRIED TO PUSH YOU FROM A CLIFF INTO THE FLAMING JUNGLE... IF YOU HADN'T OPPOSED HIM, MY FATHER WOULD BE ALIVE TODAY!"



HE'S MET THE FATE HE PLANNED FOR ME!

NOW DIE... EEE-YA-AAAGHH!



THAT TALE HAS BEEN A BENGALI LEGEND EVER SINCE! THEY SAY YOU ARE IMMORTAL! BUT I SHALL PROVE OTHERWISE... *NOW!*

HE DOESN'T REALIZE IT WAS MY FATHER WHO ESCAPED BEING MURDERED BY HIS FATHER!



SO IT WAS YOU WHO ATTACKED THE NATIVES, AND CAPTURED ME WITH THE INVISIBLE HELICOPTER! HOW DID YOU MASTER INVISIBILITY?

I WILL REVEAL ALL TO YOU WHO ARE ABOUT TO DIE...!





"SAD TO RELATE, THE SEEDS OF GENIUS THAT MADE MY FATHER A GREAT SCIENTIST WERE LACKING IN ME! BUT HARD WORK MADE UP FOR IT! THEN ONE DAY..."



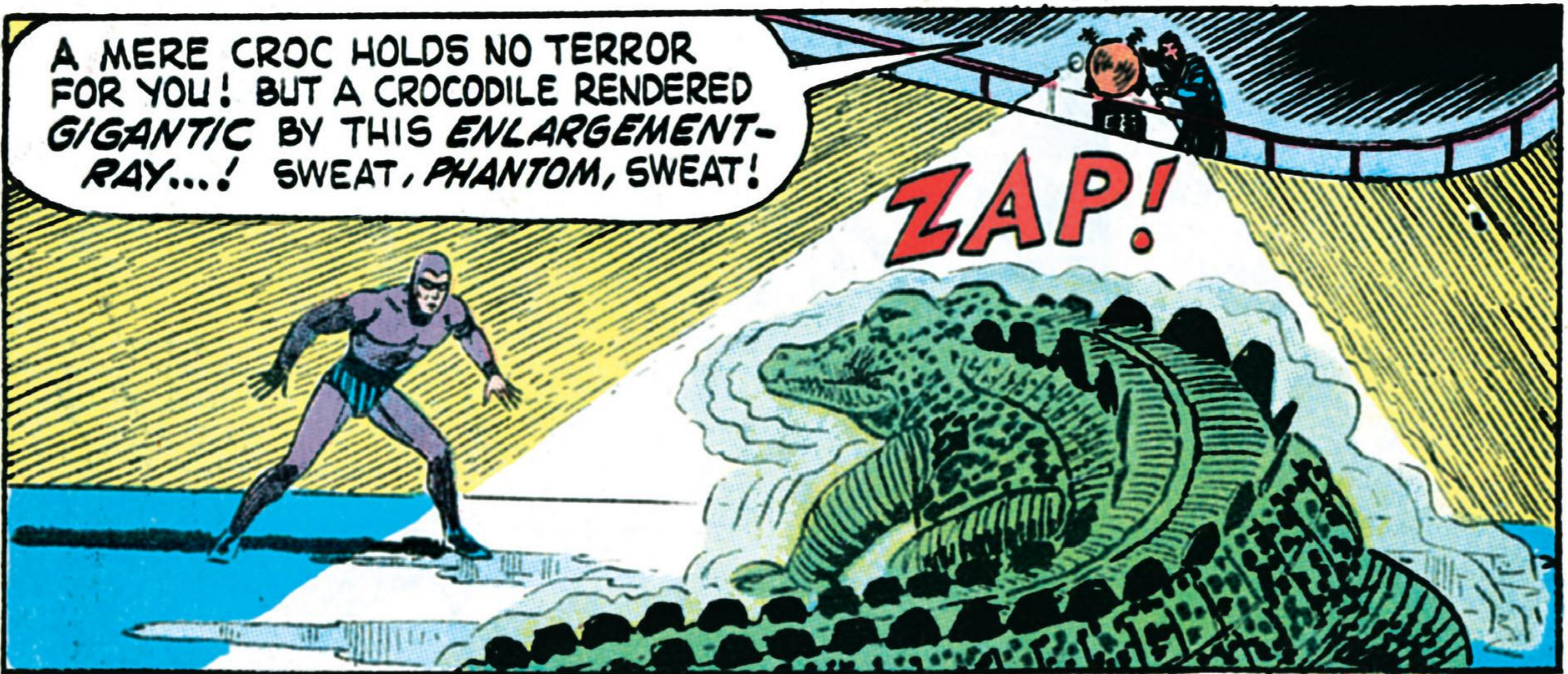
THE *MYTORS* KNEW OF MY GOAL TO DESTROY YOU! WE STRUCK A BARGAIN! I'D SEND THEM HUMAN GUINEA PIGS THROUGH THEIR TELEPORT-CABINET! BY STUDYING HUMANS, THEY WOULD LEARN HOW TO ADAPT THEIR OWN BODIES TO SURVIVE IN OUR UPPER-WORLD ATMOSPHERE!



WHEN THEY CONQUER EARTH, I WILL BE THEIR OVERLORD! IT WAS THEY WHO TAUGHT ME INVISIBILITY AND OTHER INCREDIBLE MARVELS! NOW TO *AVENGE* MY FATHER'S DEATH!



A MERE CROC HOLDS NO TERROR FOR YOU! BUT A CROCODILE RENDERED *GIGANTIC* BY THIS *ENLARGEMENT-RAY*...! SWEAT, PHANTOM, SWEAT!



THEN MONSTROUS JAWS SNAP SHUT, BARELY MISSING PHANTOM. THE PHANTOM AGILELY DARTS ASIDE TO SAFETY...





THEN THE PHANTOM SEES HIS CHANCE TO ESCAPE...



... AND LEAPS FOR IT!

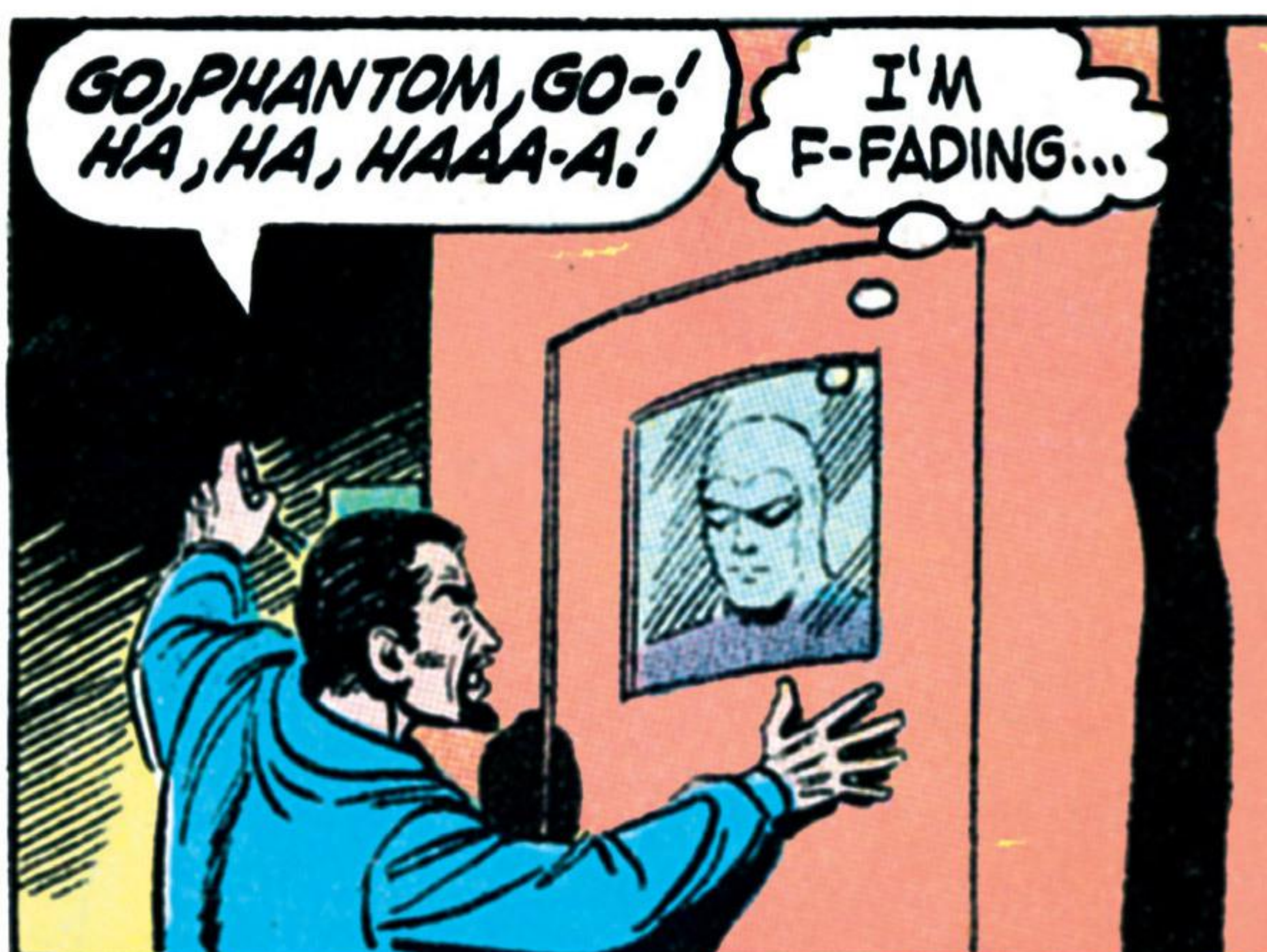


IN THE FIGHT THAT FOLLOWS, THE PHANTOM DROPS HIS GUARD FOR AN INSTANT...  
YA-HA! INTO THE TELEPORT CABINET... *GHOST WHO WALKS!*



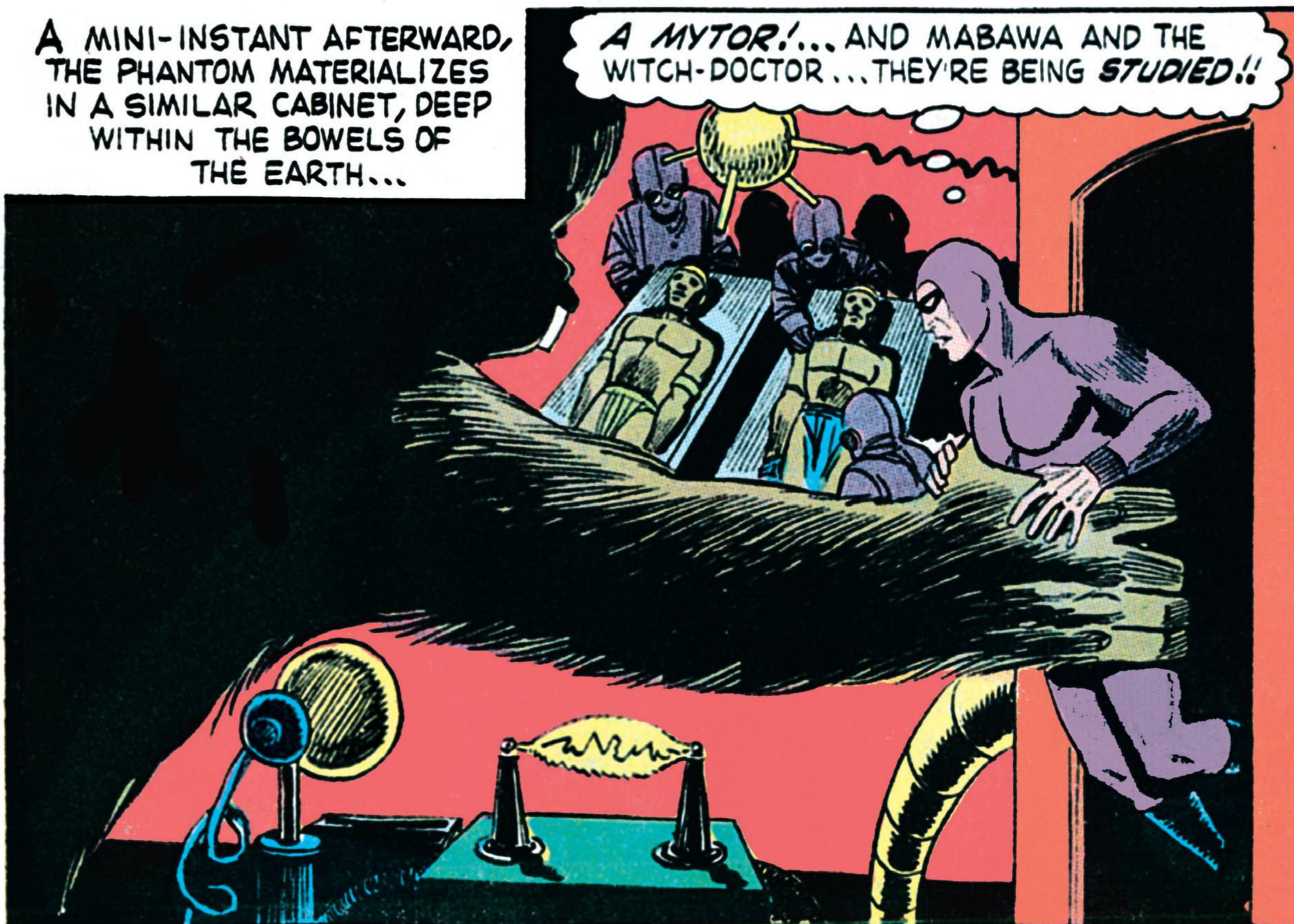
GO, PHANTOM, GO-!  
HA, HA, HAAA-A!

I'M F-FADING...



A MINI-INSTANT AFTERWARD, THE PHANTOM MATERIALIZES IN A SIMILAR CABINET, DEEP WITHIN THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH...

A MYTOR!... AND MABAWA AND THE WITCH-DOCTOR... THEY'RE BEING *STUDIED*!!





WITH DAZZLING SWIFTNESS, AND INCREDIBLE STRENGTH, *THE PHANTOM* TWISTS FREE OF THE CLUTCHING MASSIVE HAND...



LEAPING WITH A METEORIC PACE, HE TURNS THEIR OWN WEAPON ON THE *MYTORS*...



SWIFTLY, THEY RETURN TO THE SURFACE...



BUT FAITHFUL DEVIL HAS TRAILED HIS MASTER TO THE DEN OF THE DIABOLICAL DR. KRAZZ...





KRAZZ DARTS TO A STRANGE MACHINE, AND...



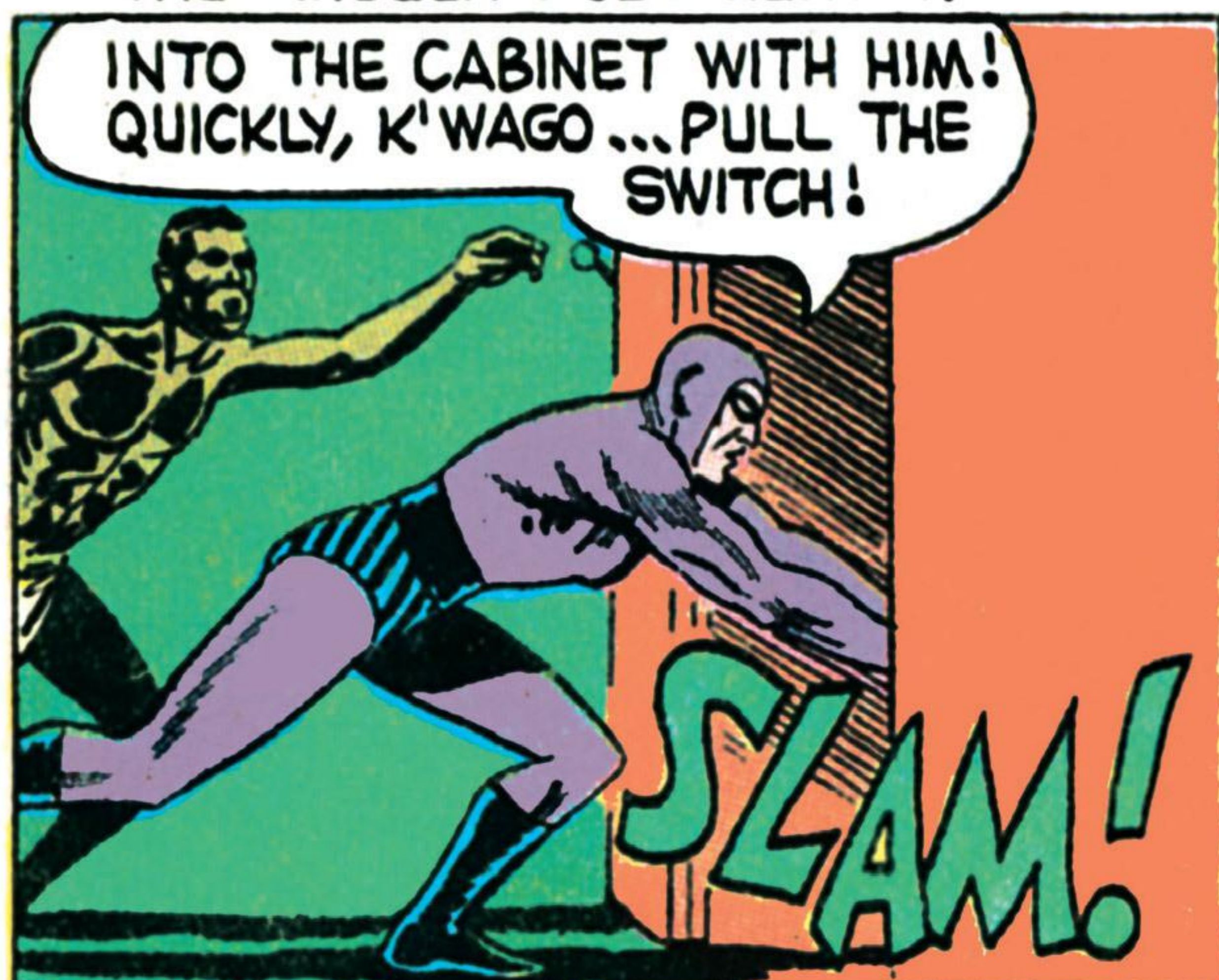
ONCE I AM INVISIBLE, I SHALL DESTROY YOU ONE BY ONE! NO ONE IS A MATCH FOR AN... HA HA... **INVISIBLE KILLER!**

NO ONE, KRAZZ? YOU FORGOT THAT DEVIL HAS A NOSE FOR SCOUNDRELS, VISIBLE OR OTHERWISE!



**YIPE!**

UPWARD, THE PHANTOM HOISTS THE UNSEEN FOE! NEXT...



INTO THE CABINET WITH HIM! QUICKLY, K'WAGO... PULL THE SWITCH!

**SLAM!**

THE *MYTORS* WILL PUNISH ME FOR MY FAILURE! BUT THE VOLCANO IS ALIVE WITH SECRETED T-CABINETS!



THOSE CRATES OF EXPLOSIVES...

EXPLOSIVES

EXPLOSIVES

SETTING A TIME-FUSE, THE PHANTOM FLEES WITH HIS FRIENDS! SHORTLY...



**BOOOOOOOO-OOMM!!**

THE END OF THE *MYTOR* THREAT!

NOT EVEN AN ARMY OF FIENDS CAN DEFEAT THE GHOST WHO WALKS!





Above: Mexican comic book cover using the artwork intended for *The Phantom* #29.



# THE PHANTOM



A savage tiger trained since birth responds to one command—**KILL THE PHANTOM!**



# The PHANTOM The TREASURE of BENGALI BAY

**F**IFTY FATHOMS DOWN IN THE MURKY DEPTHS OF BENGALI BAY LIES AN ANCIENT HULK, THE ROTTING REMAINS OF A ONCE-POWERFUL PIRATE SHIP. AND IN THIS WATERY TOMB, A FEARSOME LEGEND... A SPECTRE WHO GUARDS A FORTUNE IN PIRATE TREASURE... A TERROR KNOWN AS *THE CUTLASS*!

29

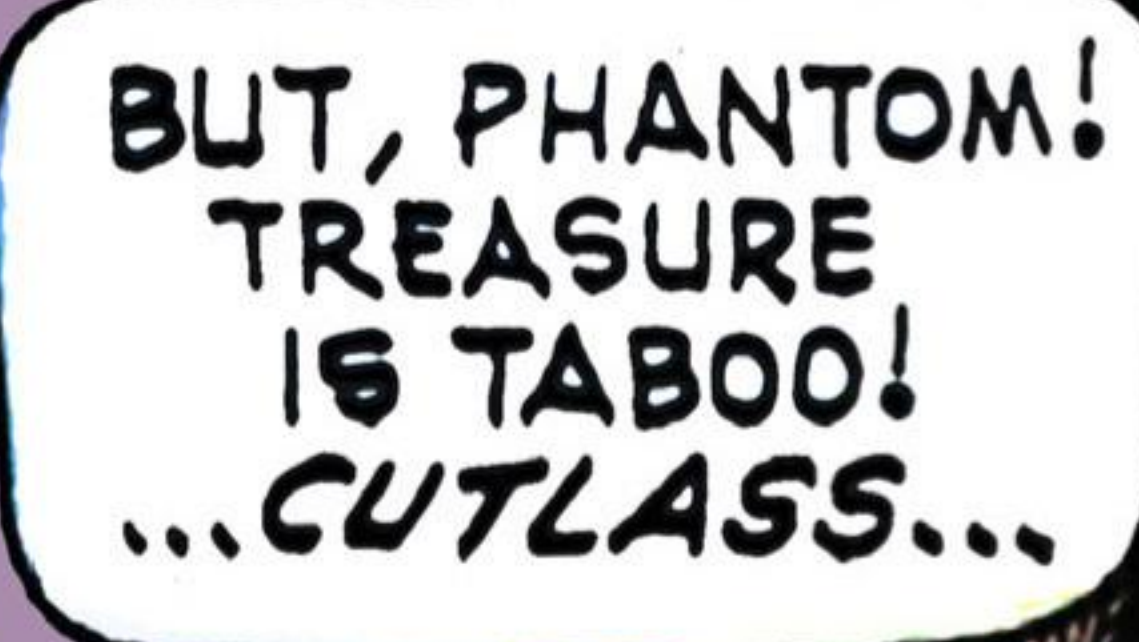
THOSE  
NATIVE DIVERS  
*WEREN'T*  
IMAGINING THINGS!  
THIS CHARACTER'S  
FOR *REAL*!







THE PROFESSOR NEEDS YOUR HELP! HE HAS LOCATED THE BENGALI TREASURE!

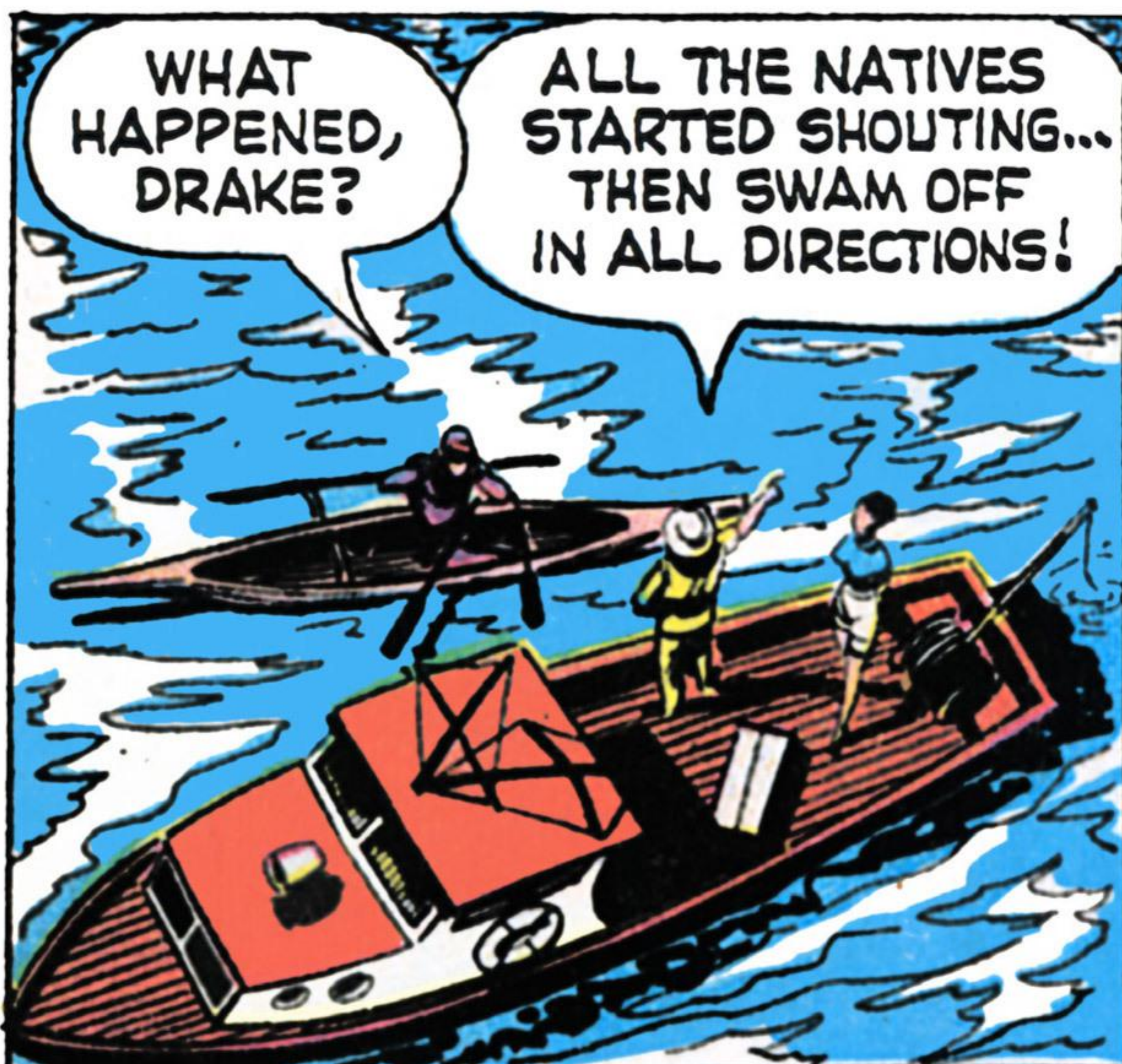
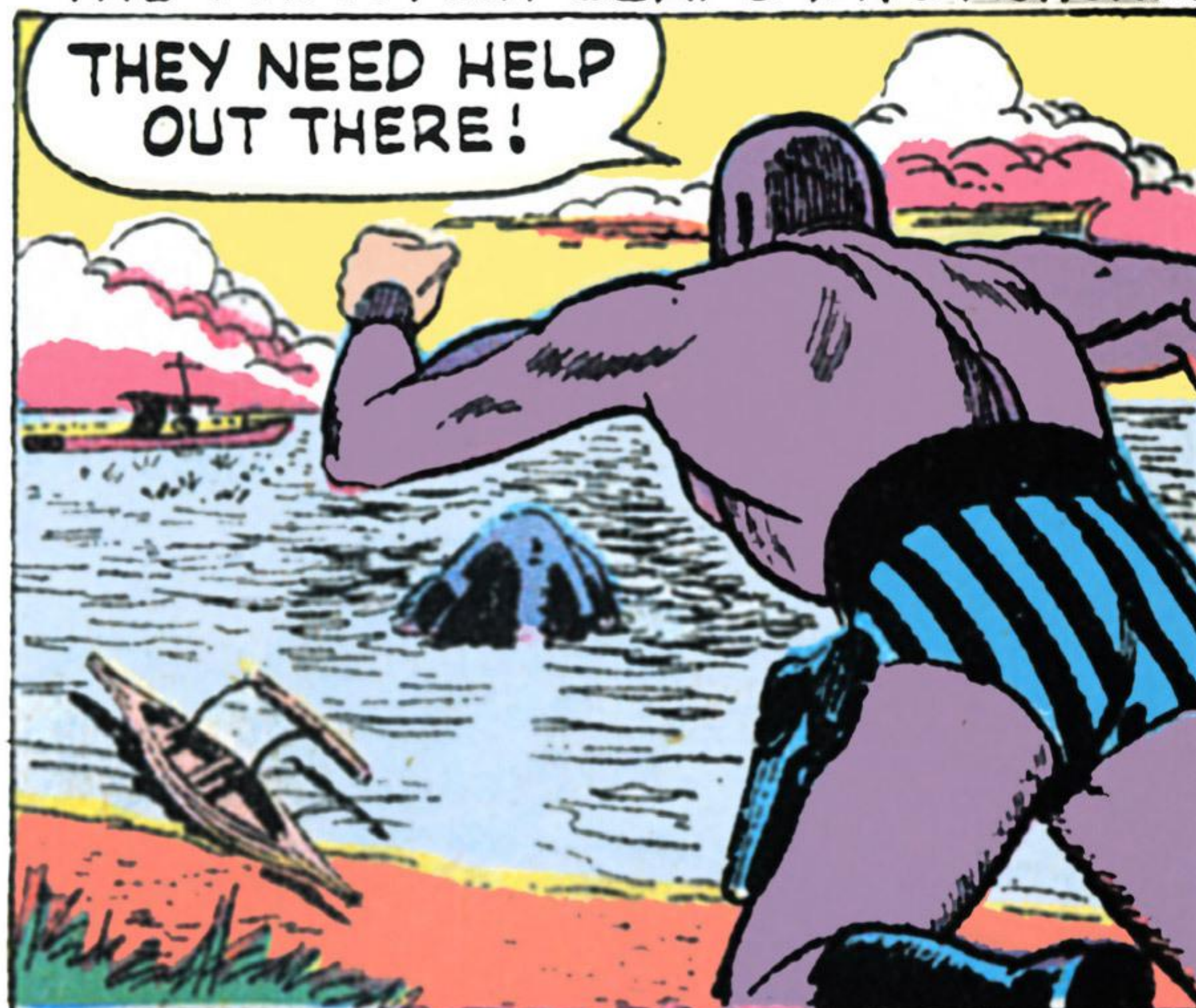




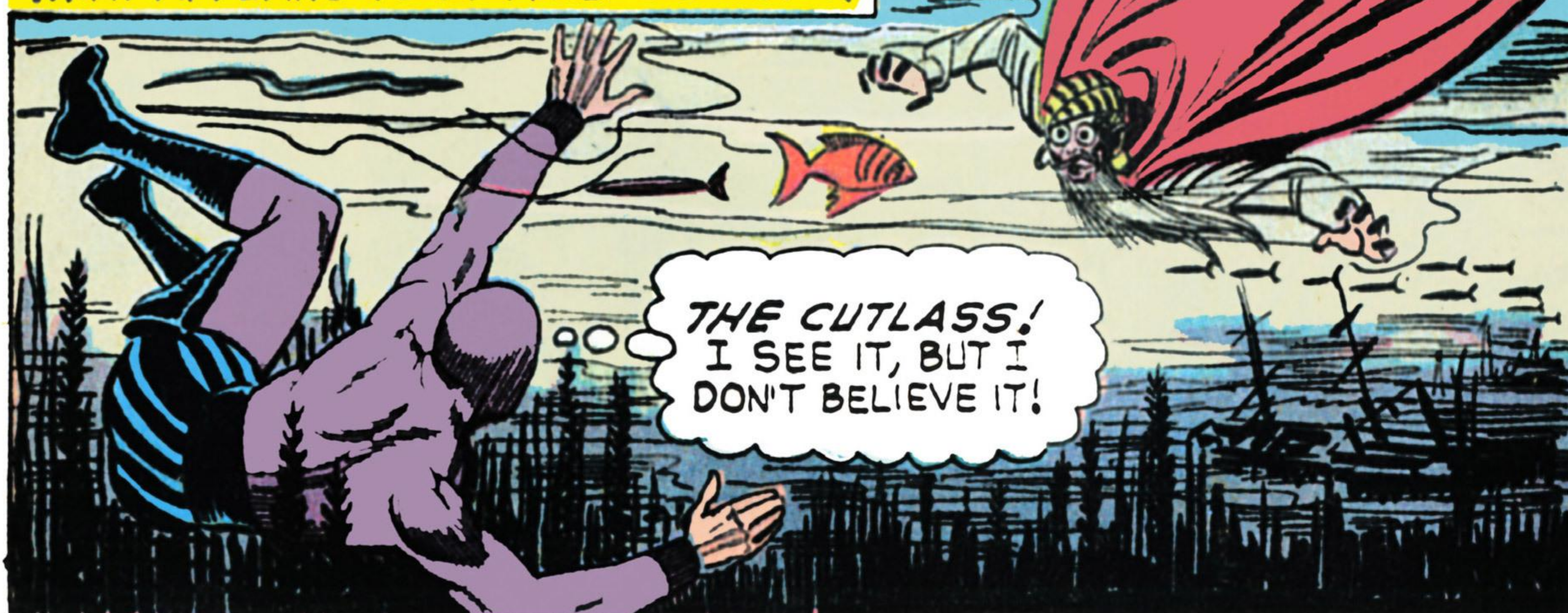
THE PHANTOM MANAGES TO CONVINCE THE FRIGHTENED NATIVES... BUT NO SOONER ARE THEY IN THE WATER THAN THE CUTLASS STRIKES...



AT THE FIRST SOUND OF TROUBLE, THE PHANTOM LEAPS INTO ACTION...



THEN, AT THE BOTTOM OF BENGALI BAY, THE PHANTOM COMES FACE TO FACE WITH WHAT APPEARS TO BE A REAL GHOST...





THE PHANTOM LASHES OUT WITH HIS MIGHTY FISTS, BUT HITS NOTHING...



AN INSTANT LATER...



MEANWHILE, ON THE SURFACE, DIANA SLIPS ON THE WET DECK...



PHANTOM! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU! IT'S DIANA... SHE'S BEEN HURT!



NOT MUCH WE CAN DO FOR HER OUT HERE, ROY! LET'S GET HER TO DR. AXEL... FAST! YOUR TREASURE WILL HAVE TO WAIT!





IN A SMALL COVE FURTHER DOWN THE COAST, THE CUTLASS COMES OUT OF THE WATER...



THOSE NATIVES SURE WERE NOISY, ZEEKS! I GUESS THEY WON'T BE BACK!

...AND NOW THE TREASURE IS ALL **OURS!**

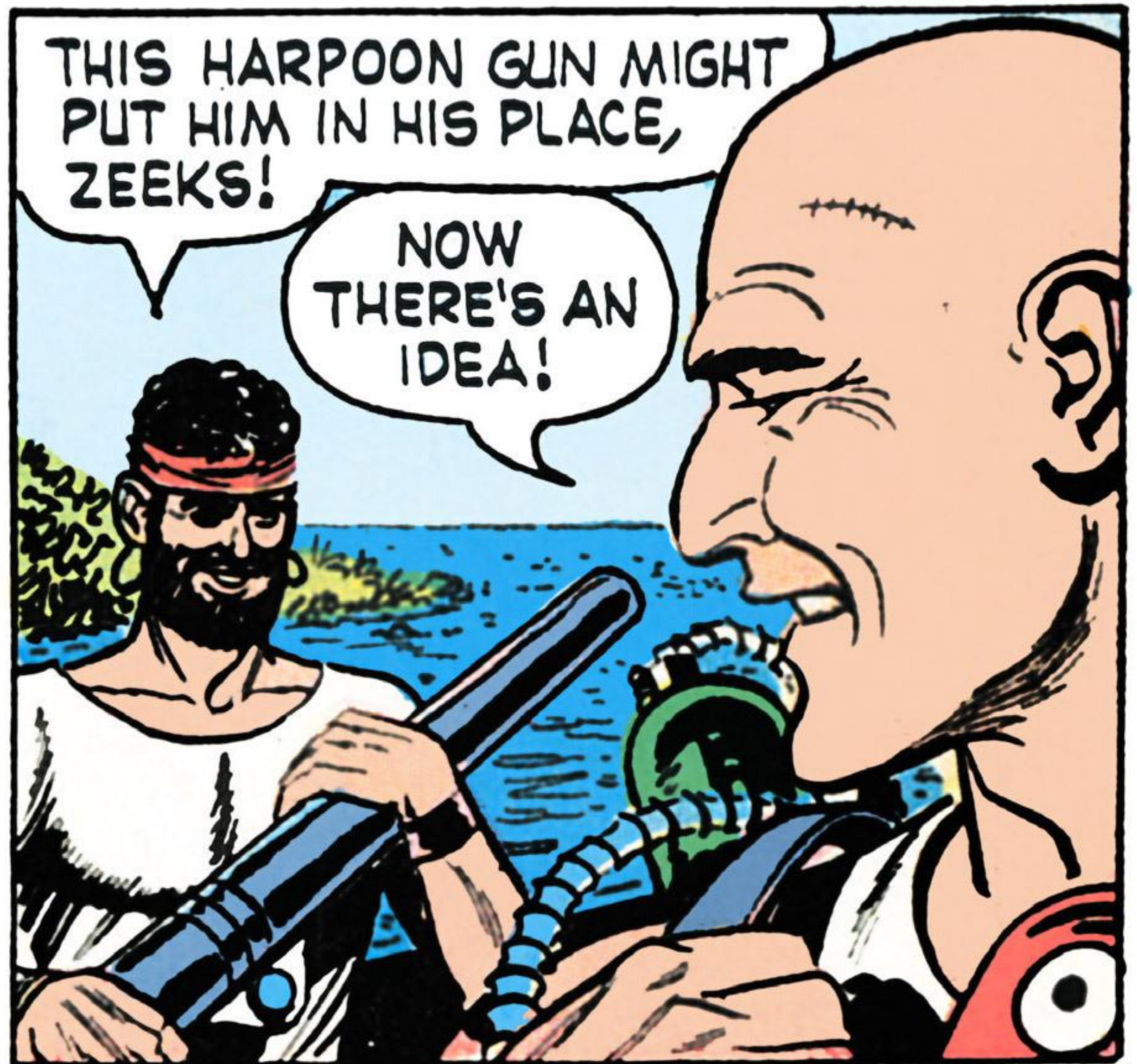
NOT YET, BOYS! WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE! **THE PHANTOM** IS MIXED UP IN THIS...

...THEY ALL RAN OFF LIKE A BUNCH OF KIDS! THEN **HE** CAME ALONG! I GOT AWAY, BUT I WAS LUCKY!

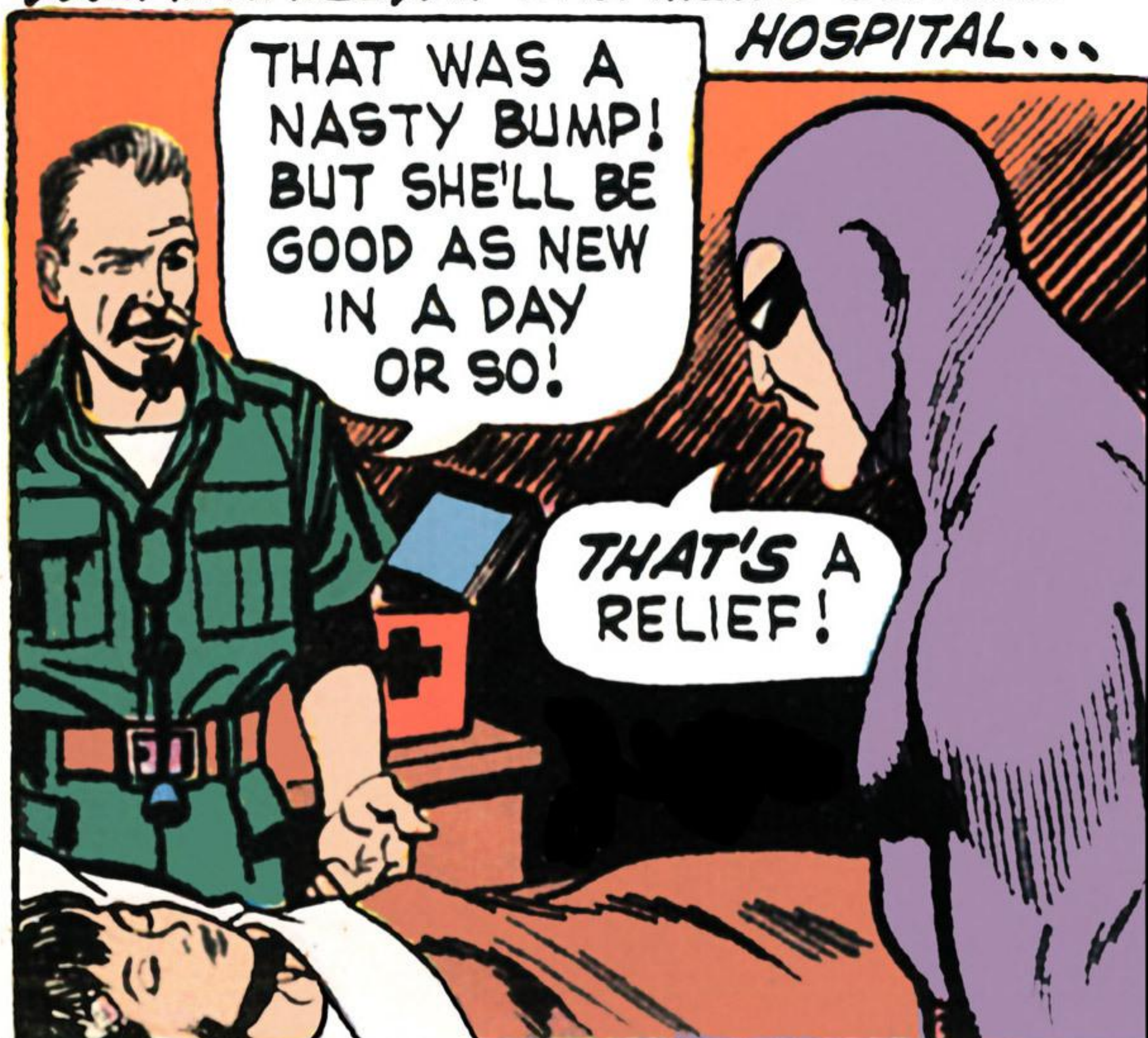


THIS HARPOON GUN MIGHT PUT HIM IN HIS PLACE, ZEEKS!

NOW THERE'S AN IDEA!



MEANWHILE, AT DR. AXEL'S JUNGLE HOSPITAL...



THAT WAS A NASTY BUMP! BUT SHE'LL BE GOOD AS NEW IN A DAY OR SO!

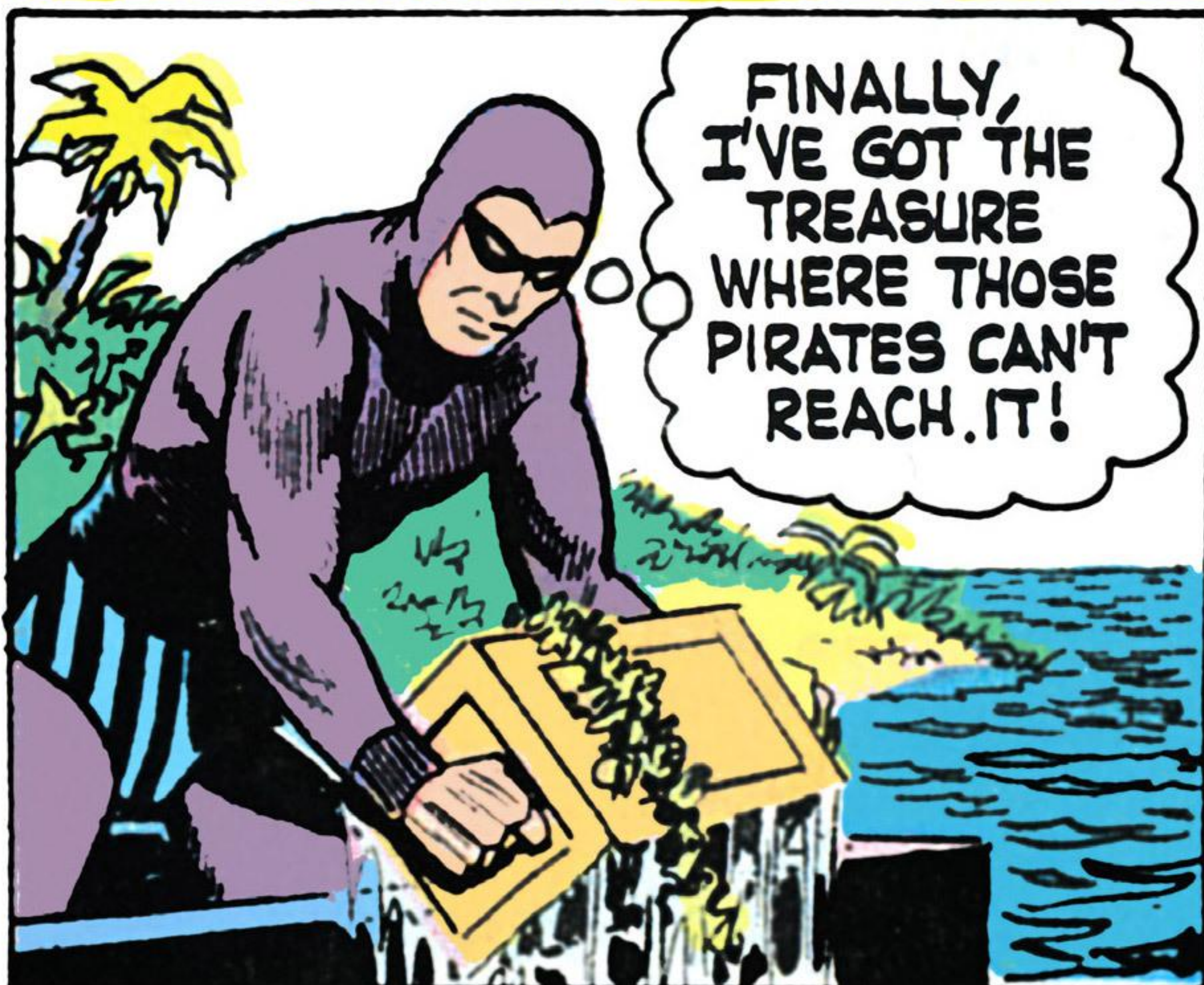
THAT'S A RELIEF!

NOW I'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH A **GHOST!**

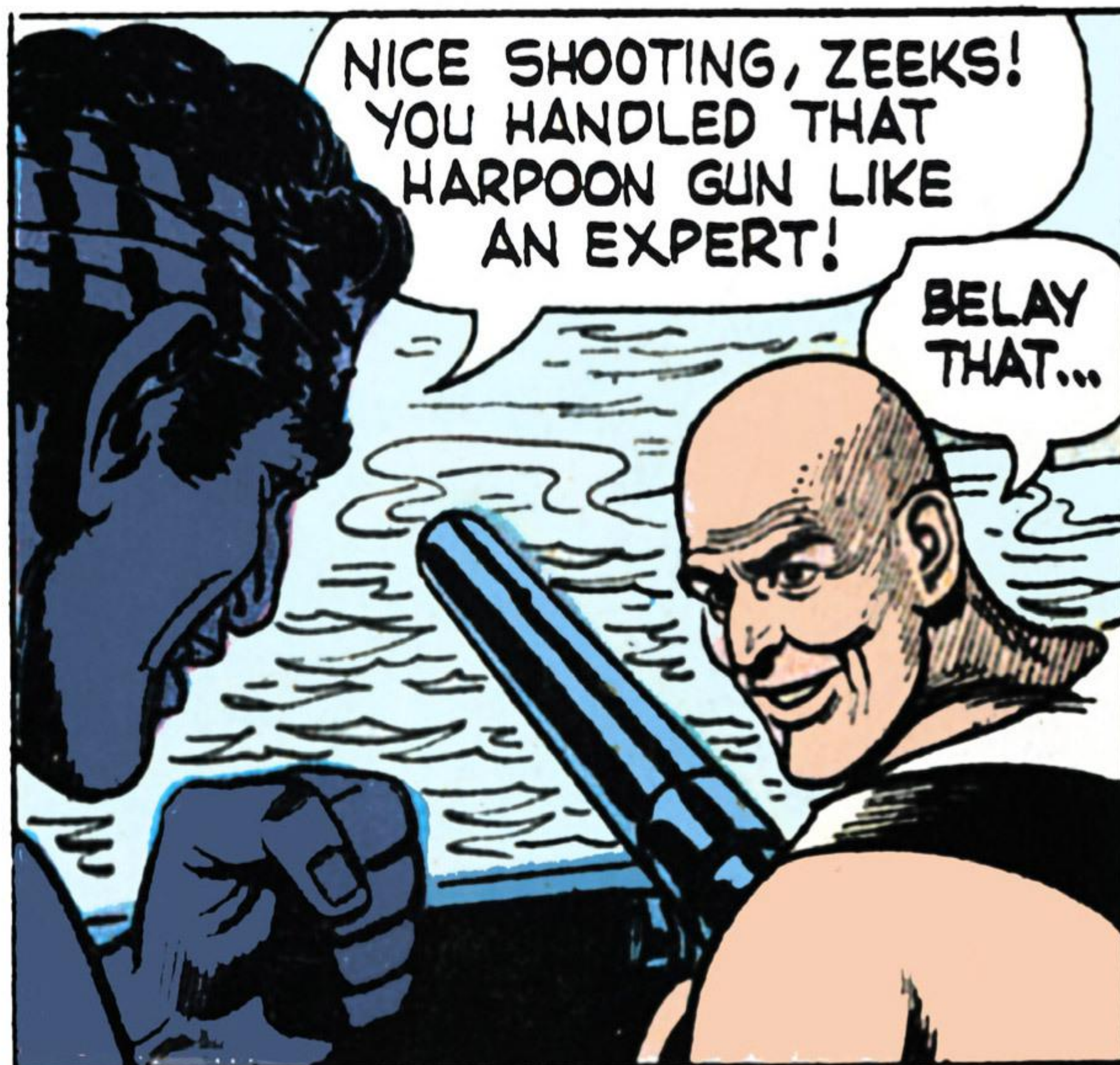
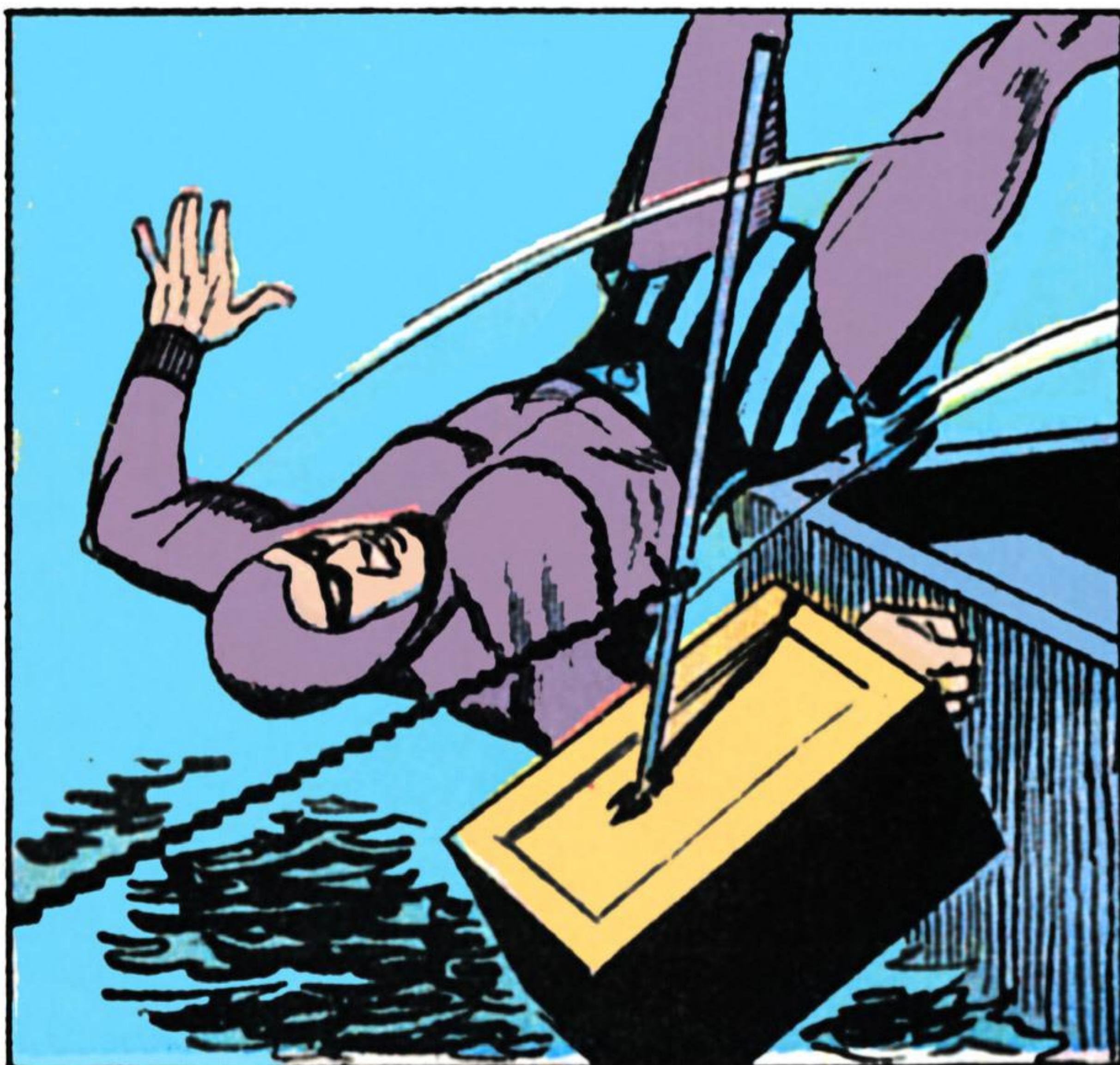
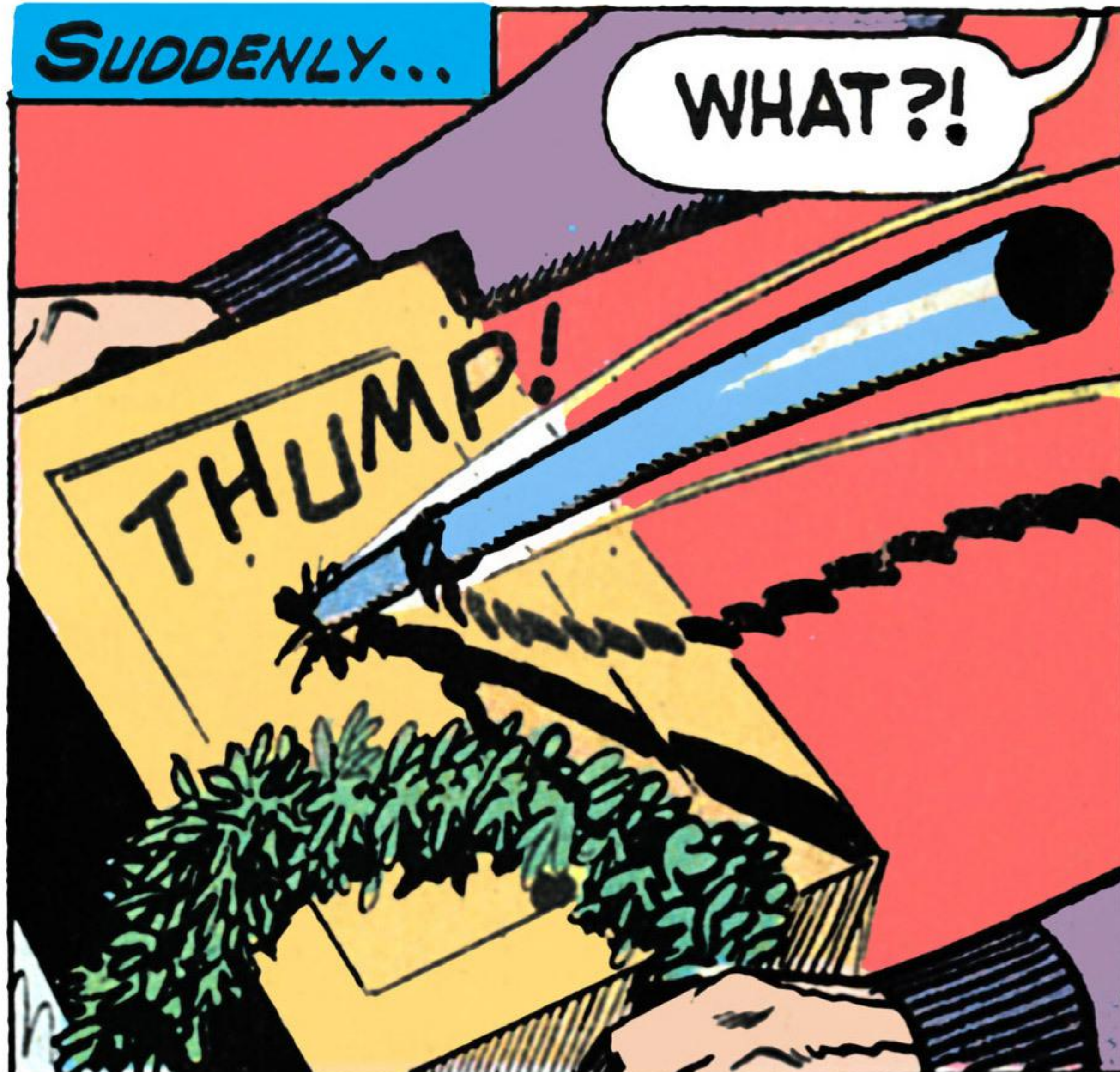




LATER, THE PHANTOM RAISES THE TREASURE IN SHALLOW WATER...



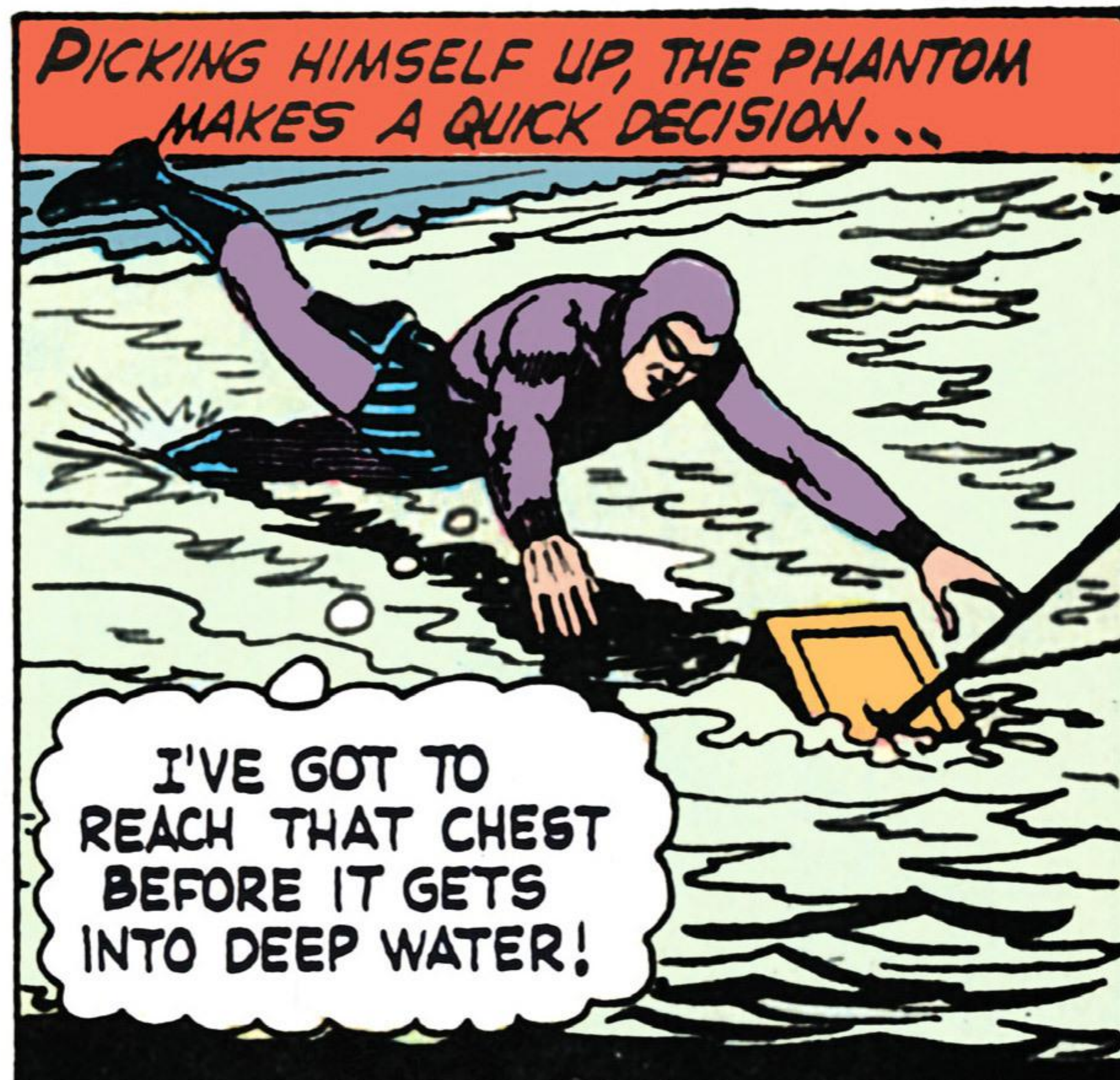
SUDDENLY...





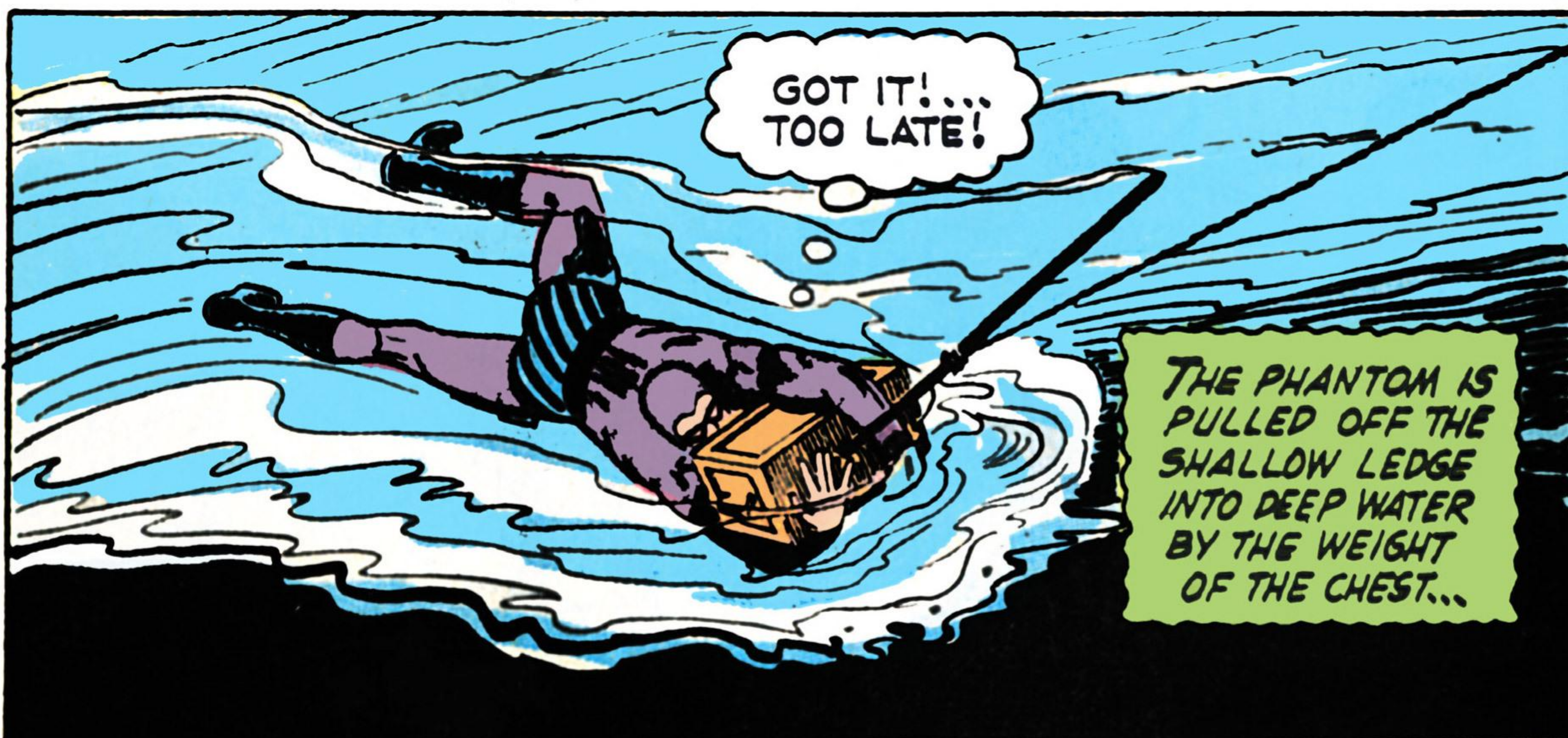


OUR  
GHOST  
PIRATE...  
HAULING  
THE  
TREASURE  
CHEST  
OFF WITH  
A HARPOON!



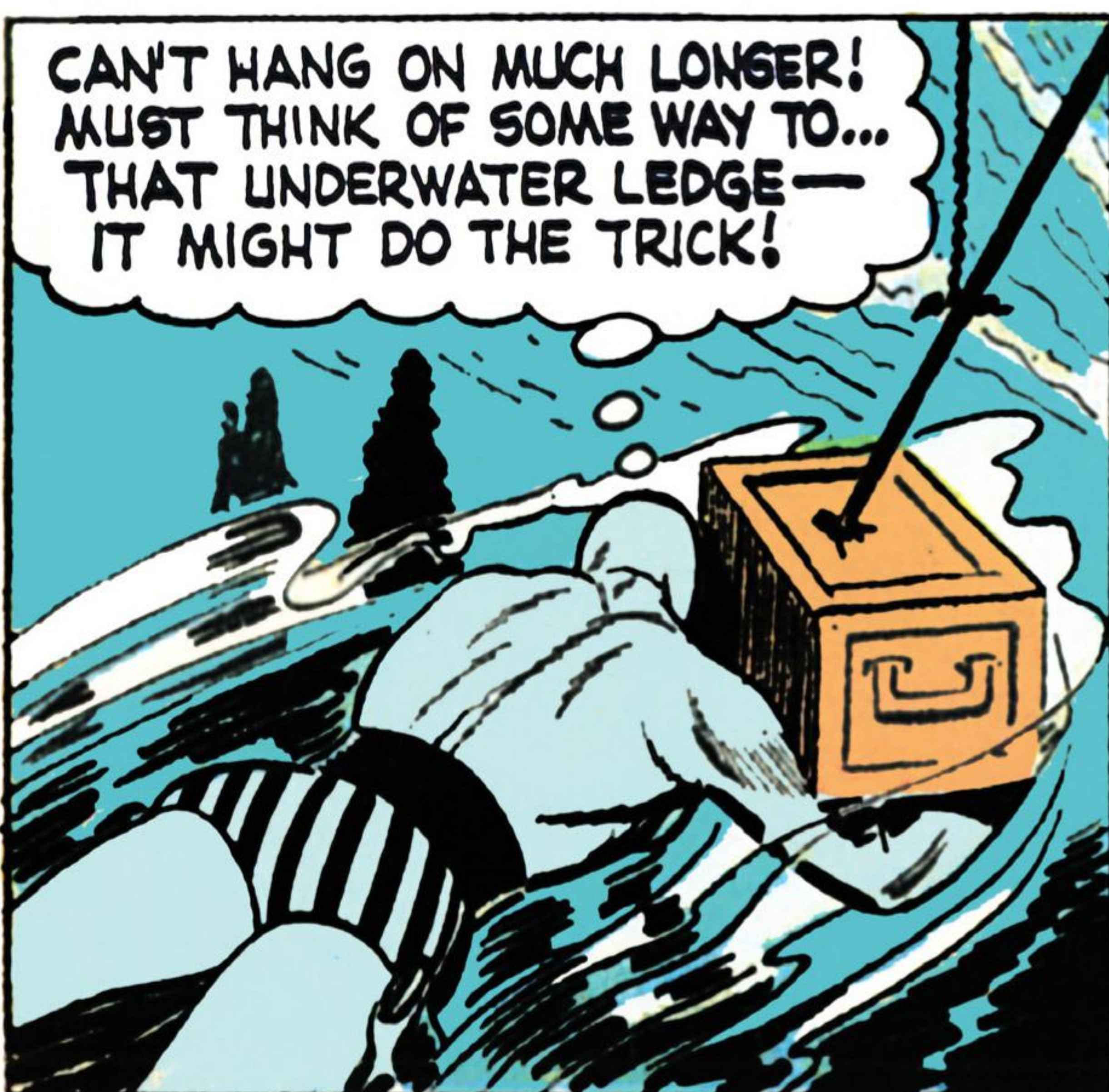
PICKING HIMSELF UP, THE PHANTOM  
MAKES A QUICK DECISION...

I'VE GOT TO  
REACH THAT CHEST  
BEFORE IT GETS  
INTO DEEP WATER!



GOT IT!...  
TOO LATE!

THE PHANTOM IS  
PULLED OFF THE  
SHALLOW LEDGE  
INTO DEEP WATER  
BY THE WEIGHT  
OF THE CHEST...



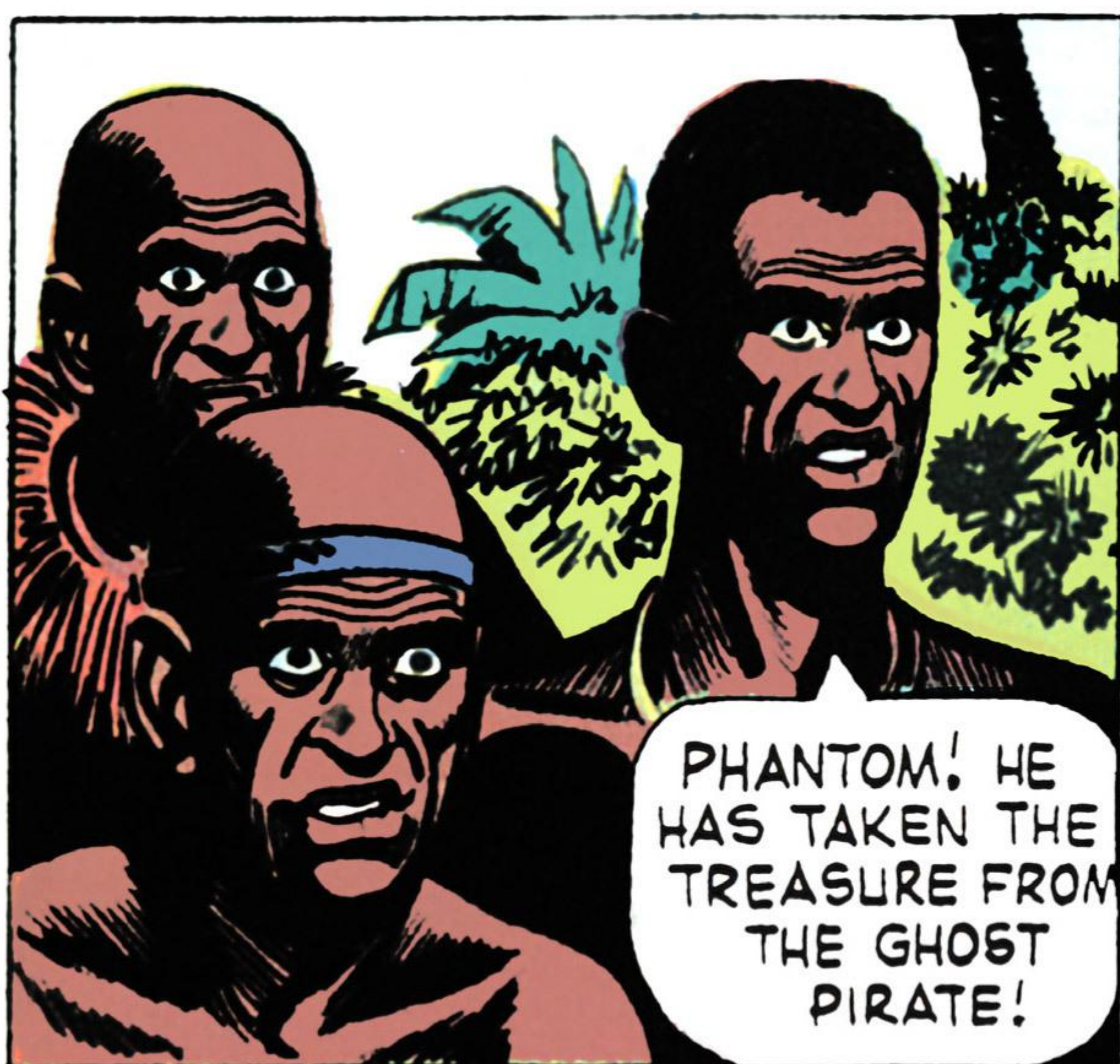
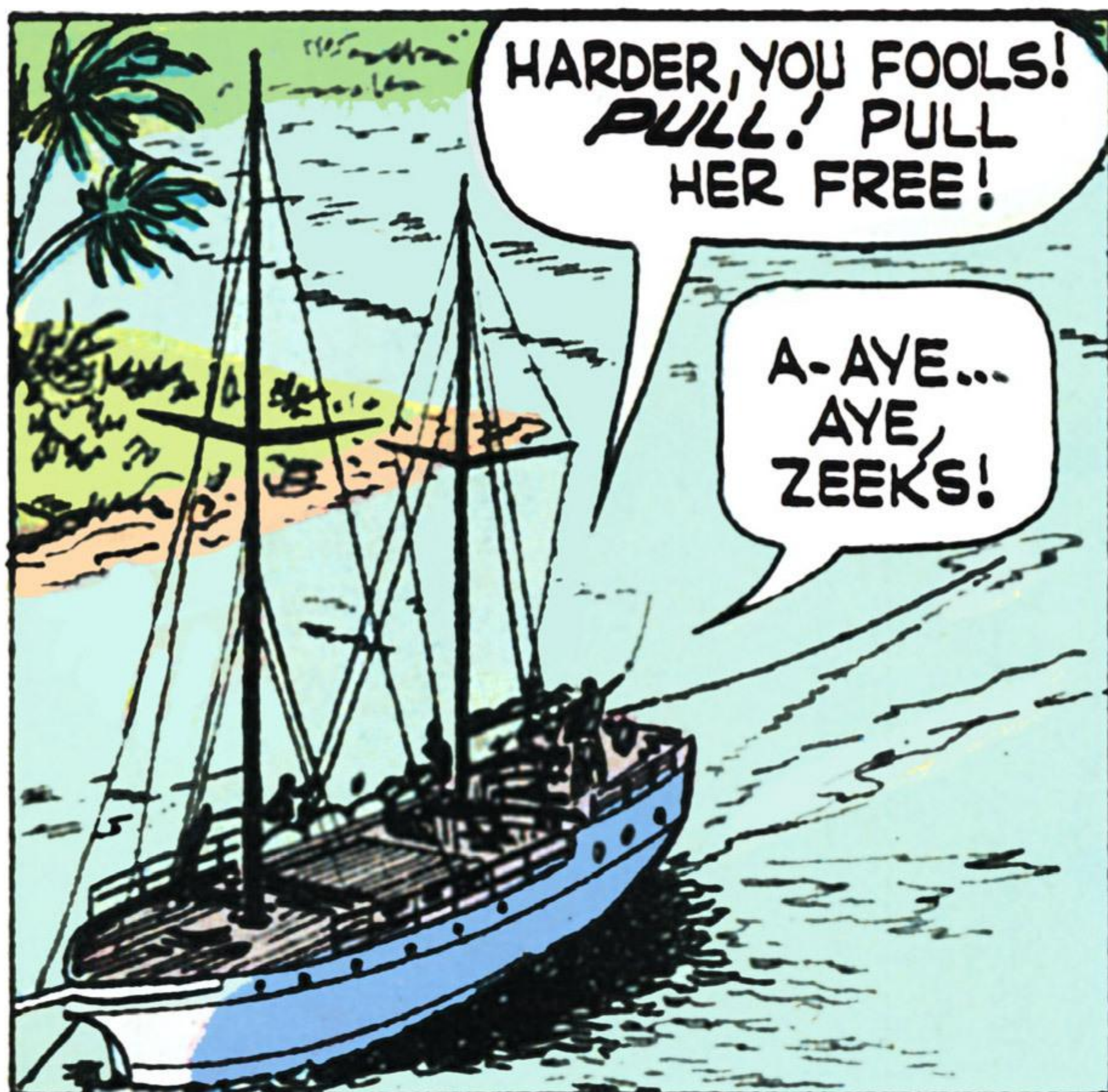
CAN'T HANG ON MUCH LONGER!  
MUST THINK OF SOME WAY TO...  
THAT UNDERWATER LEDGE—  
IT MIGHT DO THE TRICK!



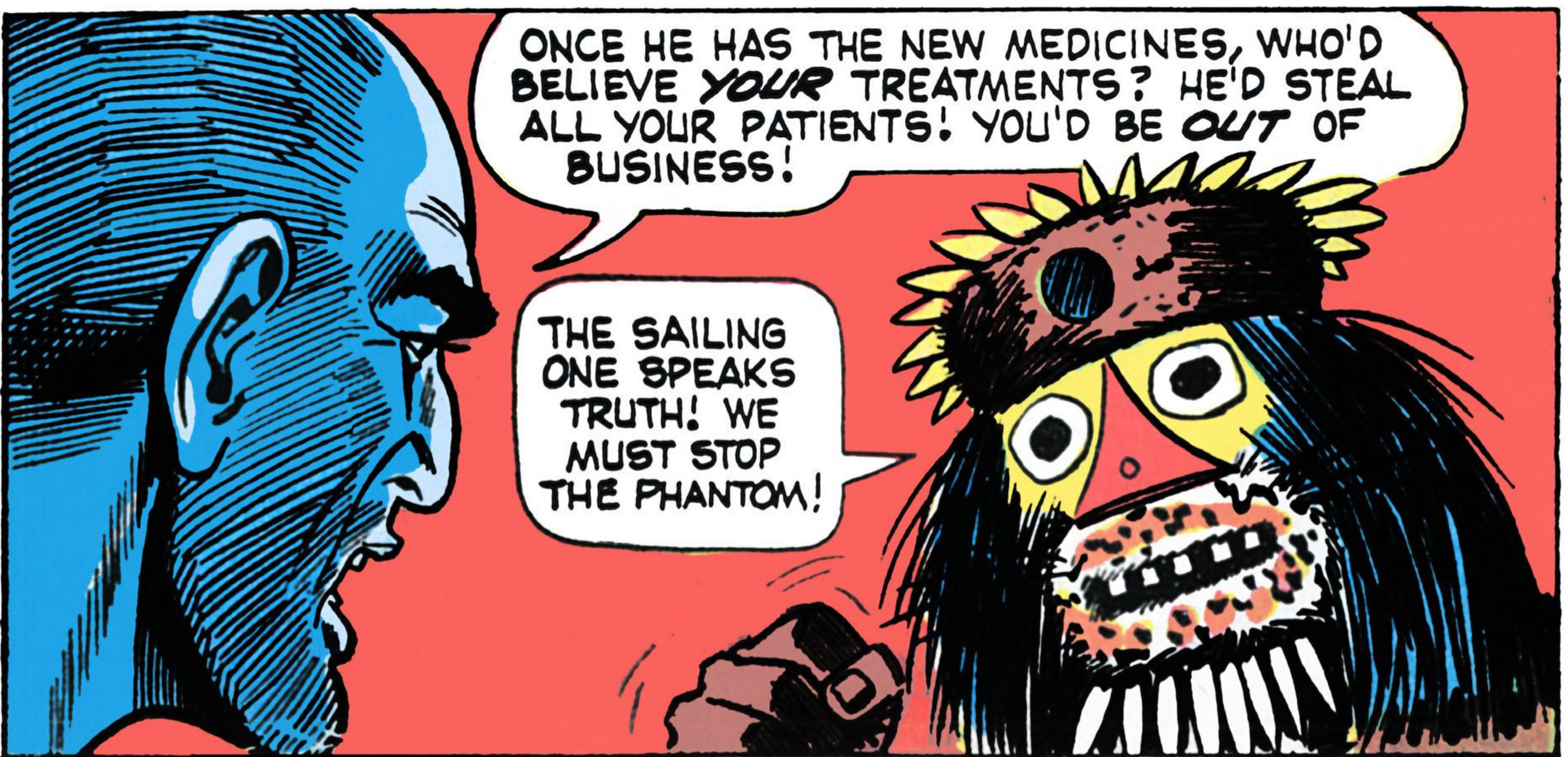
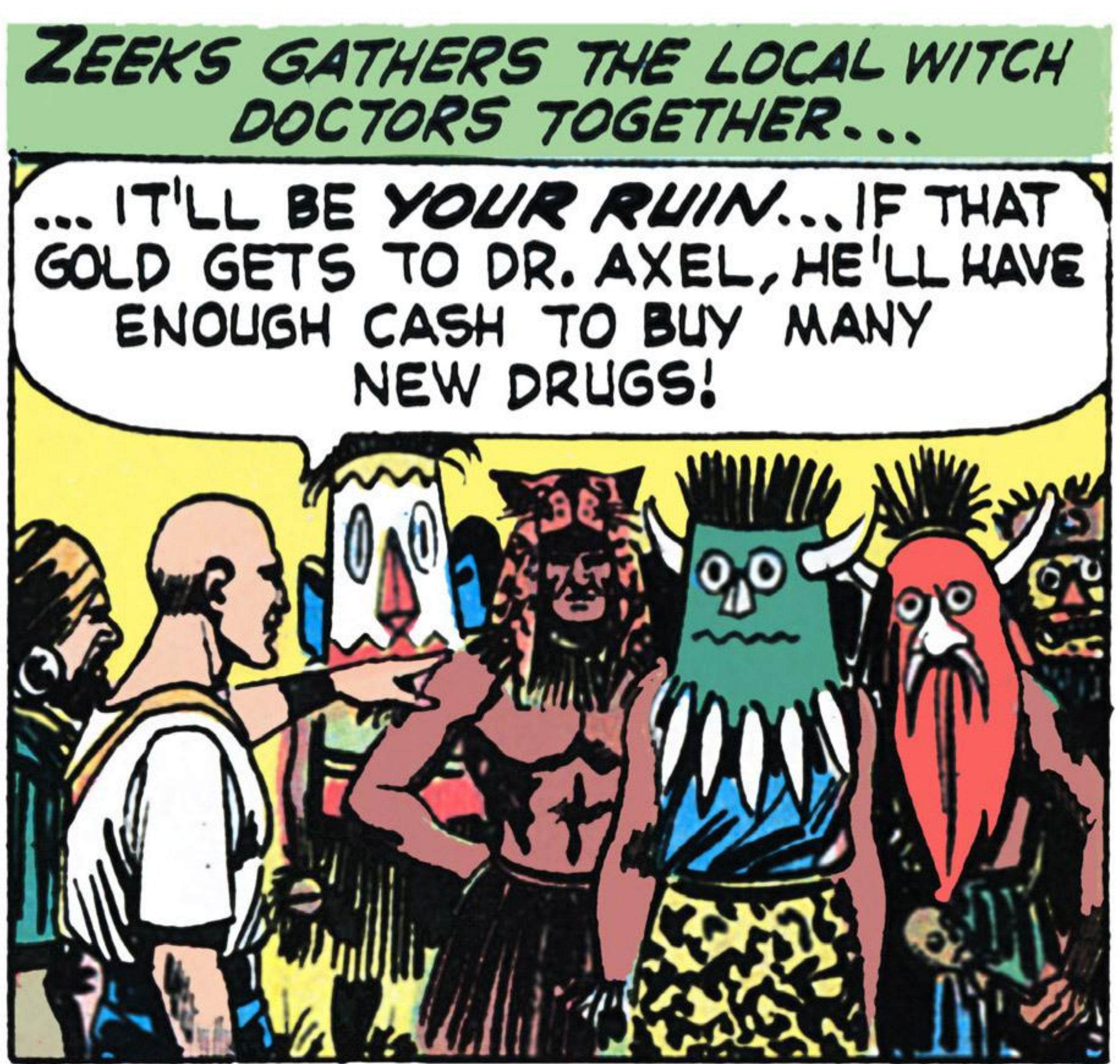
WHAT'S WRONG?  
PULL THE CHEST  
ABOARD!

S-SHE'S STUCK, ZEEKS!  
SOMETHING'S  
HOLDING IT FAST!

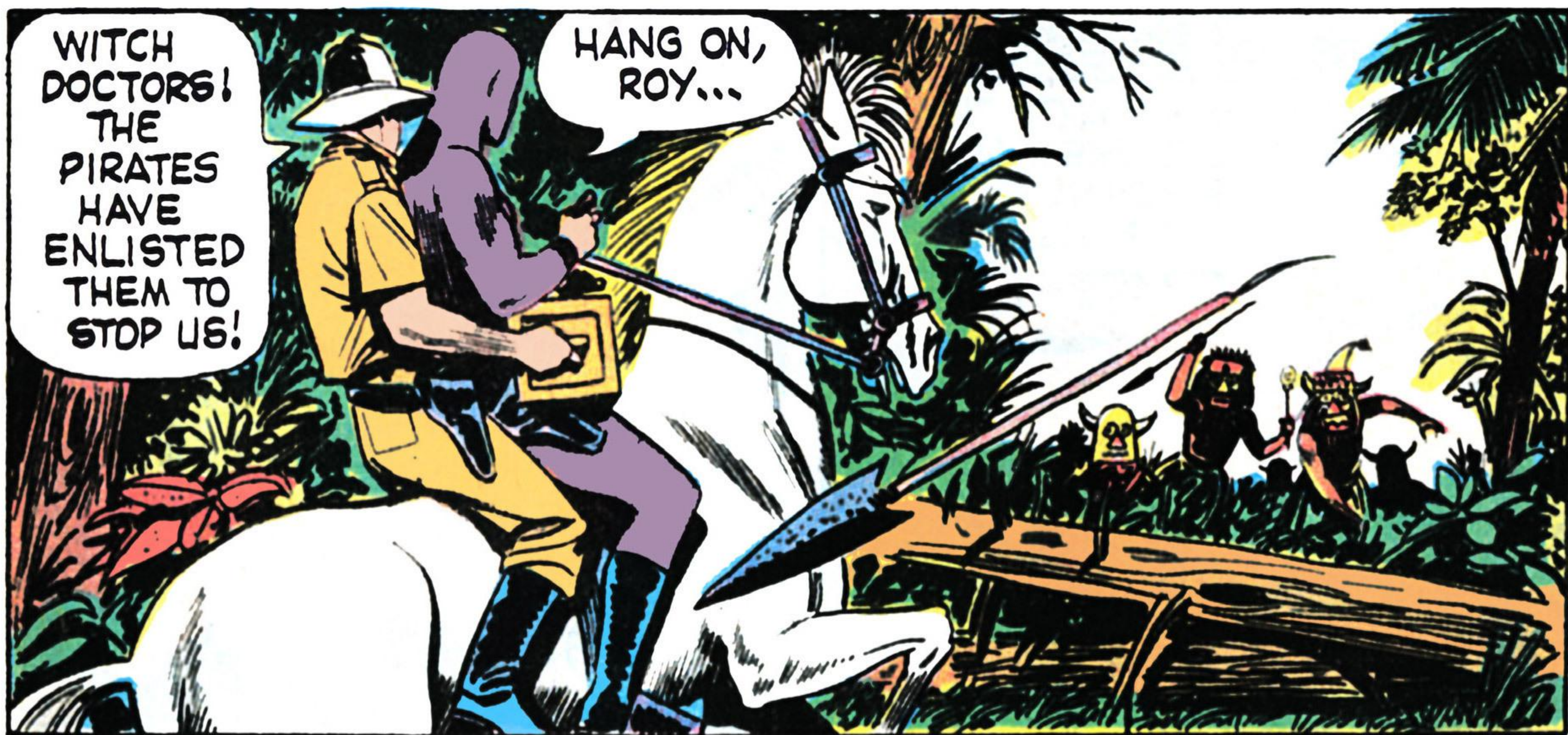














**IN A SHORT TIME...**

HE HAS NOT SURFACED! HE IS DEAD!  
HE CANNOT LEAD OUR PEOPLE AWAY  
FROM OUR MAGIC ANY LONGER!



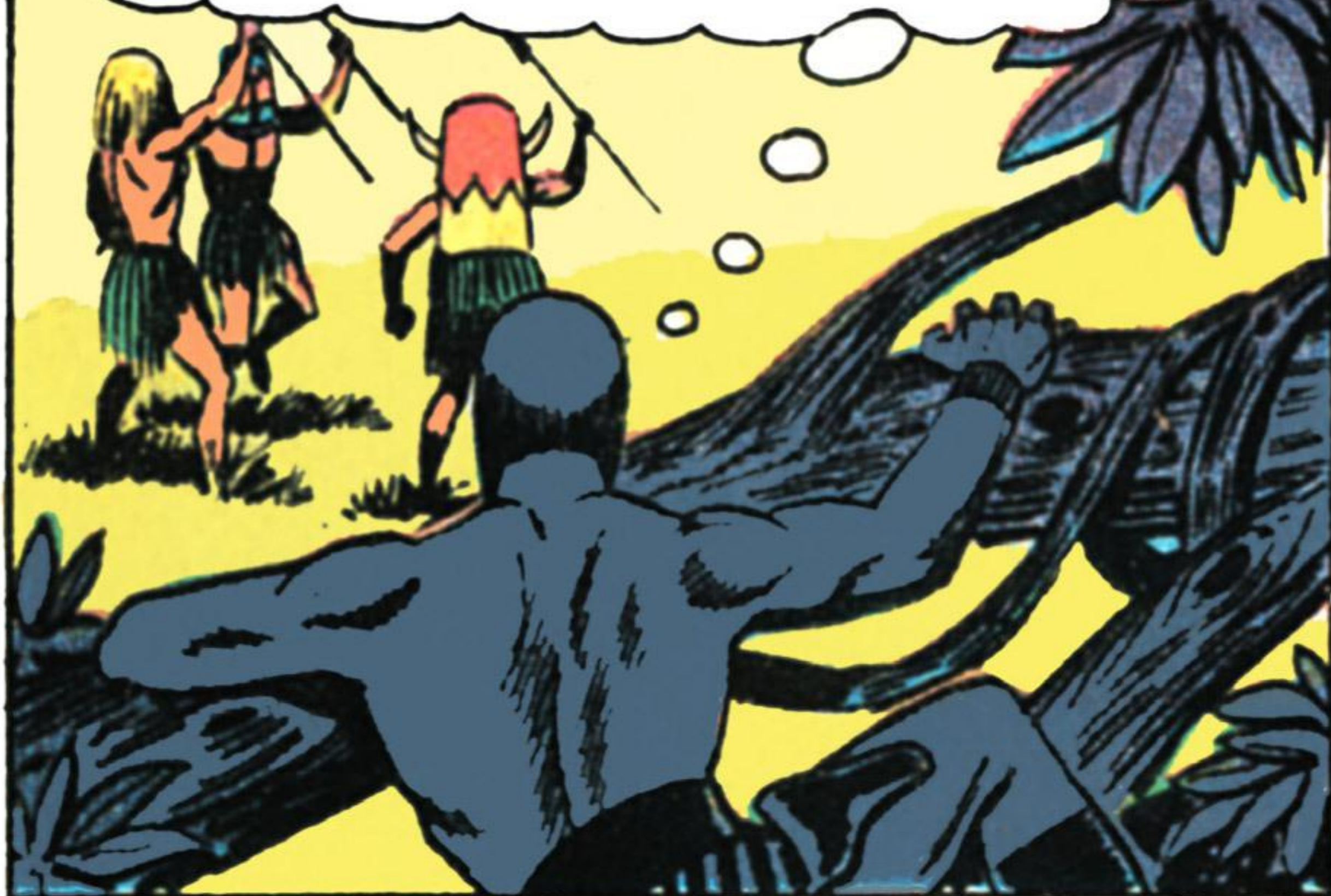
**THE WITCH DOCTORS FAIL TO CHECK  
THE TALL GRASS...**

I WONDER HOW MANY OF THE  
WITCH DOCTORS ARE AGAINST US?  
WILL THERE BE **MORE** WHEN WE  
PICK UP THE TRAIL AGAIN?



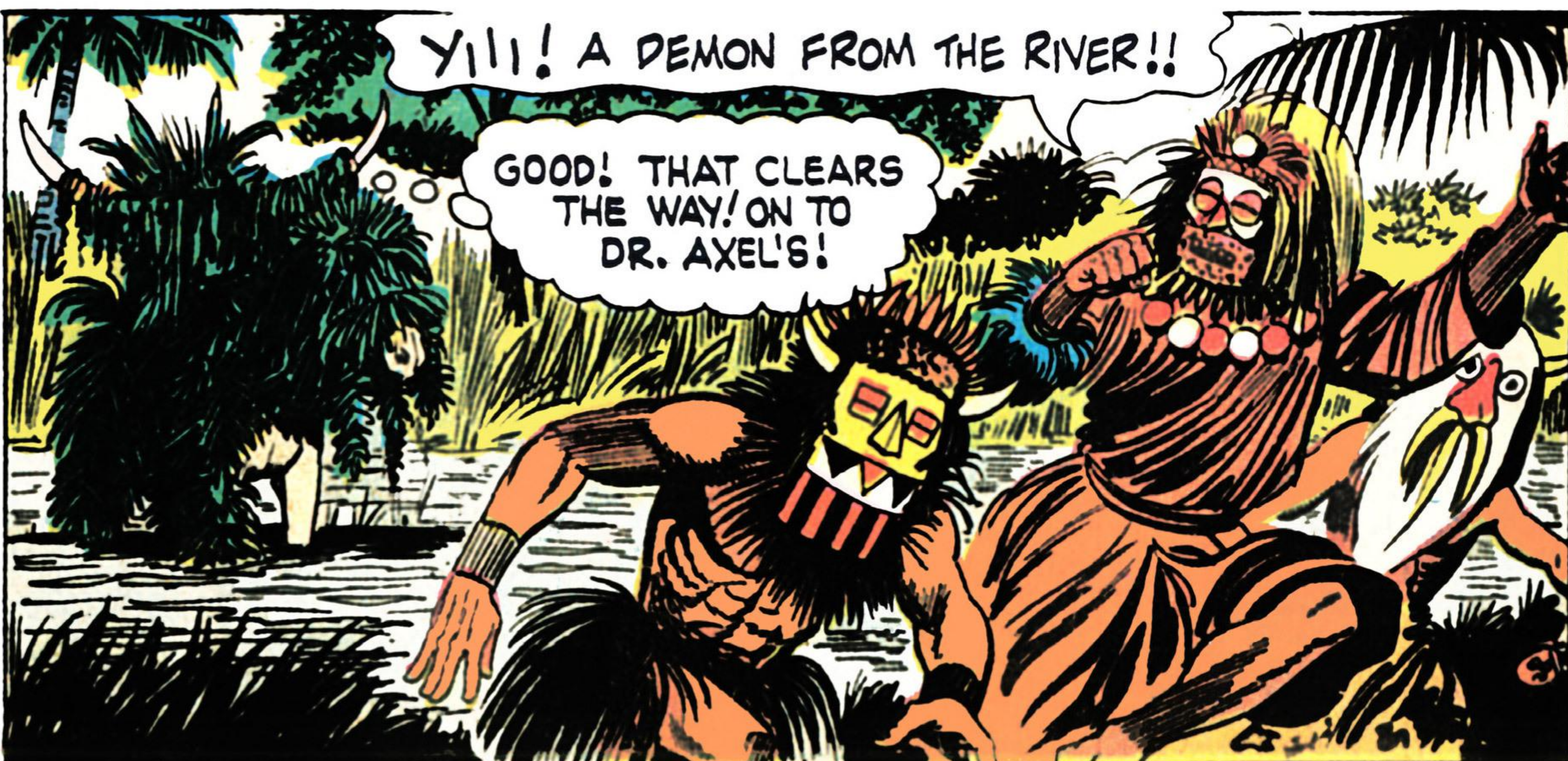
**A HALF MILE DOWNSTREAM...**

JUST AS I THOUGHT... THERE ARE  
MORE OF THEM! THIS CALLS FOR  
SPECIAL TREATMENT!



**SHORTLY...**

**AIEEEEE!  
LOOK!**



**YII! A DEMON FROM THE RIVER!!**

GOOD! THAT CLEARS  
THE WAY! ON TO  
DR. AXEL'S!



AND FURTHER DOWN THE TRAIL...

UP AHEAD,  
**PIRATES!**

QUICKLY, ROY...TOSS  
THE GOLD PIECES  
FROM THE CHEST  
TO THEM!



THERE ~~HE~~ IS!  
HE'S TRAPPED!

HEY! WHAT'S  
THAT THEY'RE  
THROWING?



GOLD!  
HE'S THROWING  
US THE  
**TREASURE!!**



FORGET ABOUT  
~~HIM~~! GRAB  
ALL THE GOLD  
YOU CAN, YOU  
LUBBERS!

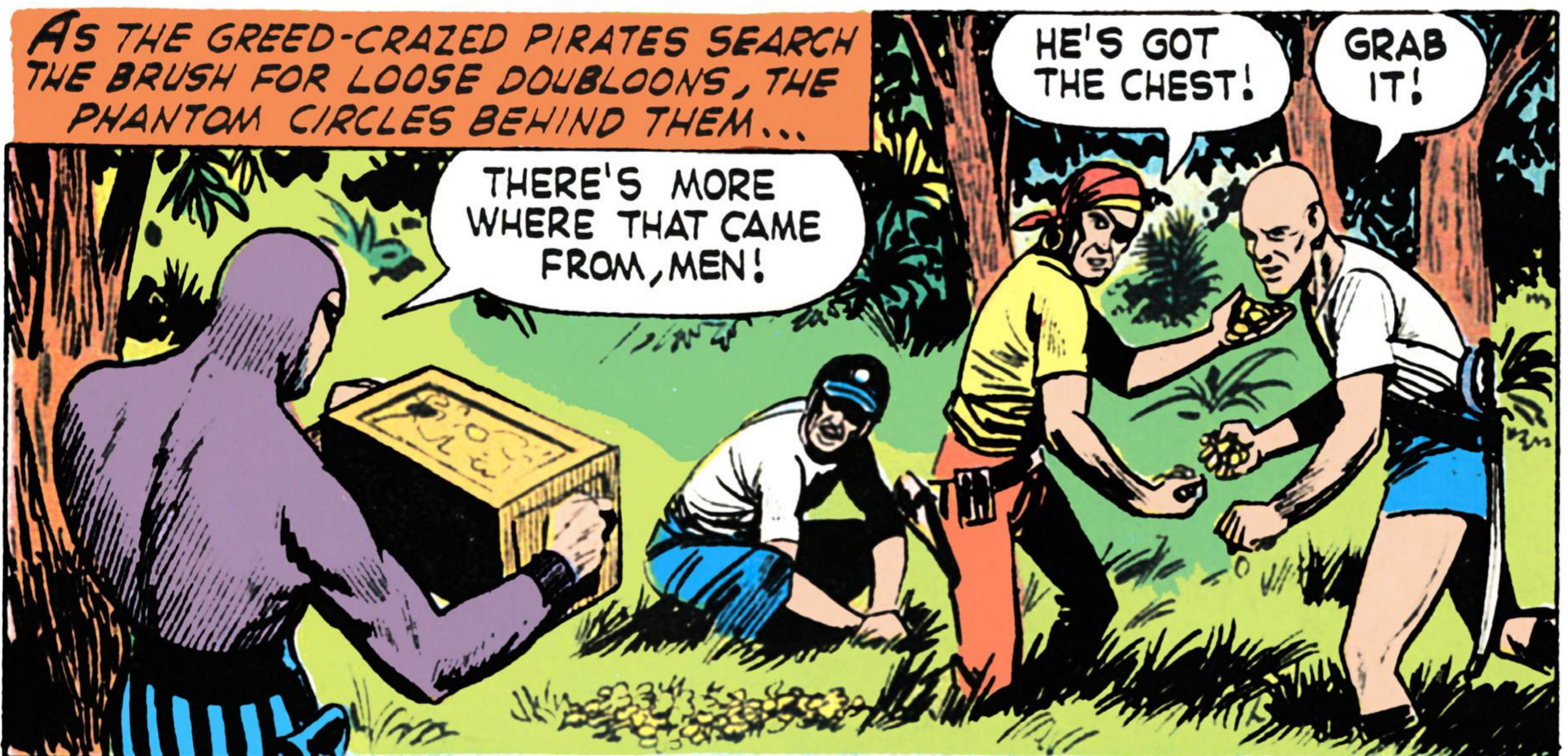


AS THE GREED-CRAZED PIRATES SEARCH  
THE BRUSH FOR LOOSE DOUBLOONS, THE  
PHANTOM CIRCLES BEHIND THEM...

THERE'S MORE  
WHERE THAT CAME  
FROM, MEN!

HE'S GOT  
THE CHEST!

GRAB  
IT!





**BEFORE THE PIRATES CAN LIFT THEIR WEAPONS, LIGHTNING STRIKES!**

YOU CHARACTERS SHOULD STICK TO THE HIGH SEAS... YOU HAVEN'T GOT YOUR LAND LEGS YET!



LIKE A TORNADO, THE PHANTOM WHIRLS AMONG THE PIRATES...

— BUT YOU'LL GET USED TO BEING ON LAND — **BEHIND BARS!**



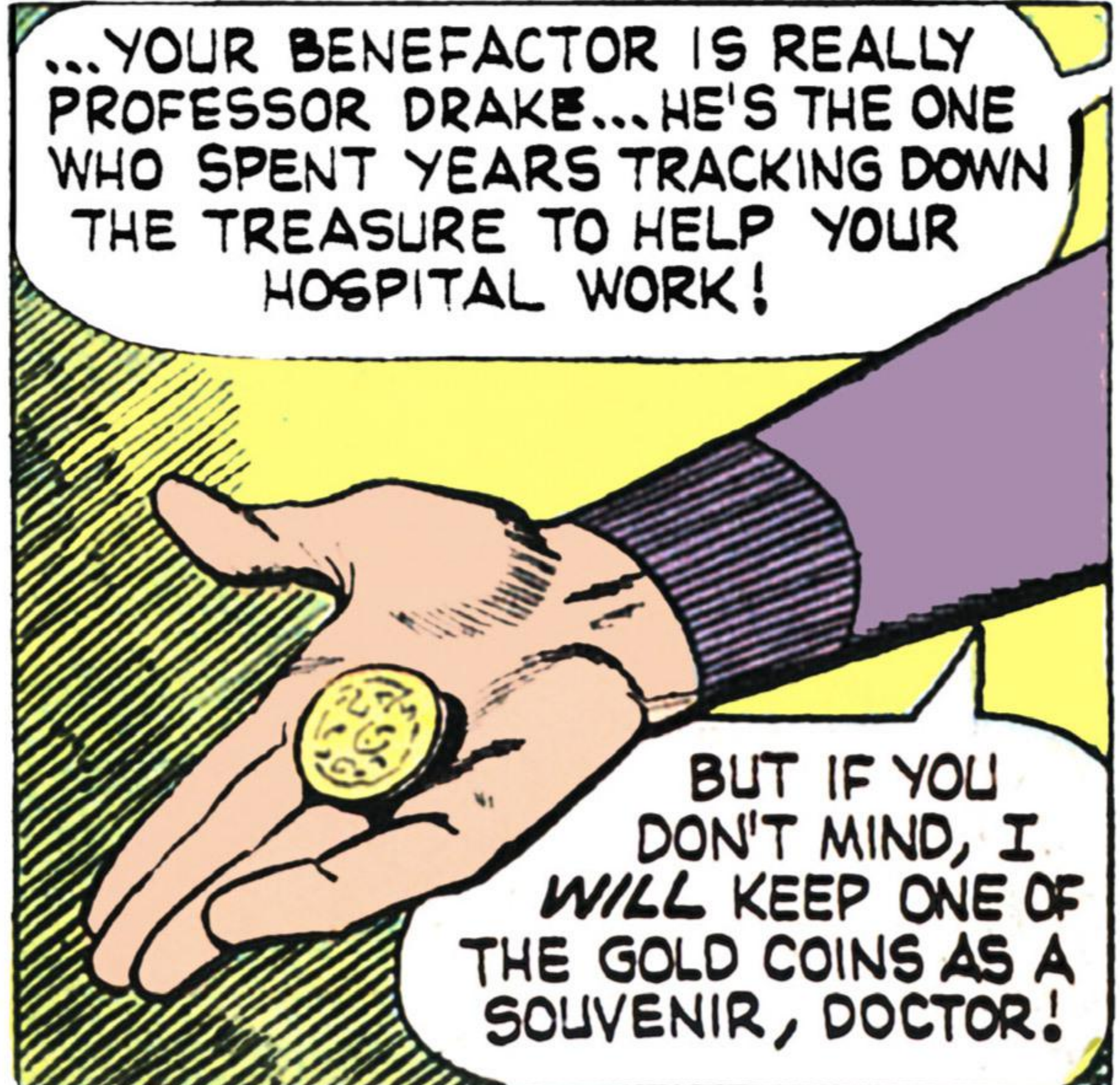
**LATER...** IT'S A **MIRACLE!** A NEW HOSPITAL AND THE MONEY TO RUN IT! HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU, PHANTOM?

YOU CAN'T, DR. AXEL...



...YOUR BENEFACTOR IS REALLY PROFESSOR DRAKE... HE'S THE ONE WHO SPENT YEARS TRACKING DOWN THE TREASURE TO HELP YOUR HOSPITAL WORK!

BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND, I **WILL** KEEP ONE OF THE GOLD COINS AS A SOUVENIR, DOCTOR!





# THE PHANTOM

## THE TERROR TIGER

TRAPPED IN THE FEARSOME MAZE OF INDIA, THE PHANTOM HAD BUT ONE WEAPON TO BATTLE THE DEADLY TIGER WHO WAS TRACKING HIM... A DIAMOND DAGGER GIVEN TO HIM BY HIS FATHER, THE PHANTOM BEFORE HIM. AND THE VERY LIFE OF THE GHOST WHO WALKS DEPENDED UPON HIS REMEMBERING A STORY HIS FATHER TOLD HIM AS A CHILD. . .

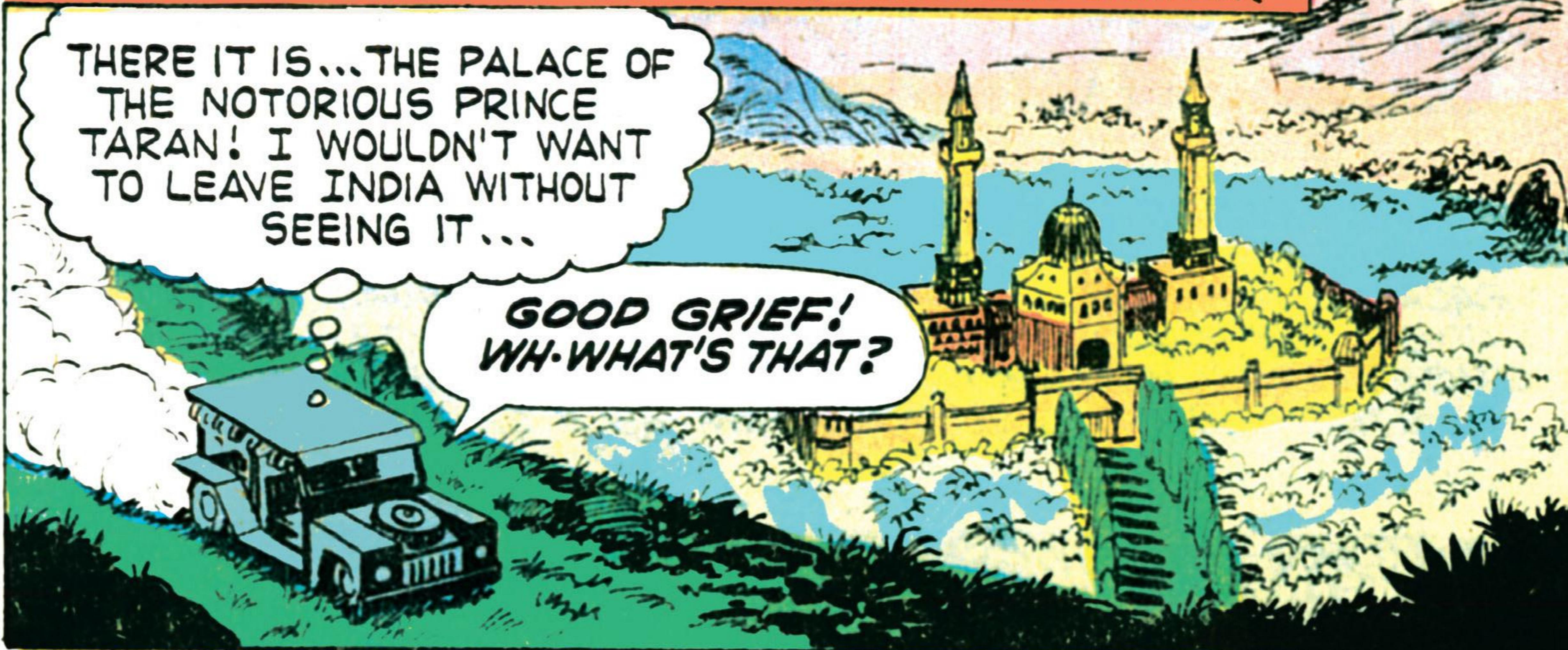




AN OLD FRIEND OF THE PHANTOM, TRAVELING IN INDIA  
SUDDENLY COMES ACROSS AN ASTONISHING SIGHT...

THERE IT IS...THE PALACE OF  
THE NOTORIOUS PRINCE  
TARAN! I WOULDN'T WANT  
TO LEAVE INDIA WITHOUT  
SEEING IT...

GOOD GRIEF!  
WH-WHAT'S THAT?



HIS EYES GO WIDE WITH WONDER  
AS HE PEERS THROUGH HIS GLASSES  
INTO THE PALACE COURTYARD...

WH-WHY, IT'S  
THE **PHANTOM**  
BEING ATTACKED  
BY A TIGER!

NO...NO...IT'S A  
**DUMMY** OF THE  
PHANTOM...

WH-WHAT  
ON  
EARTH?



AND AS COLONEL HUNTINGTON MOVES  
IN FOR A CLOSER LOOK...

HO, BENGU!  
SPRING!  
KILL!

KAZAR! A  
MAGNIFICENT  
CATCH!



IN ANOTHER WEEK  
WE'LL TRAVEL TO  
BENGALI AND I SHALL  
TURN YOU LOOSE  
NEAR THE DEEP  
WOODS, TO SEEK OUT...

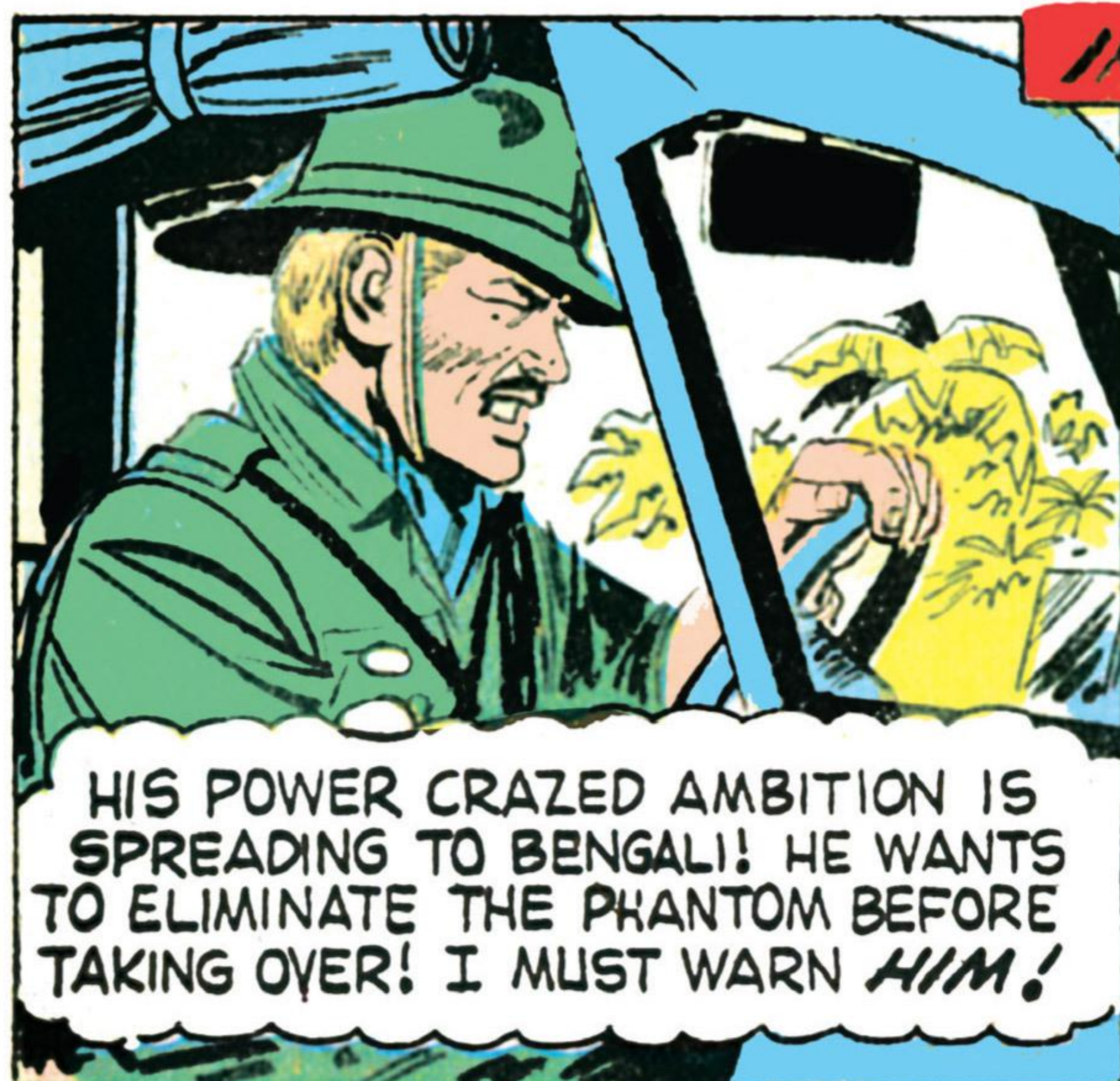
...THE  
**REAL**  
PHANTOM!



W-WHY, THAT DIABOLICAL FIEND...  
PRINCE TARAN IS TRAINING THAT  
CREATURE TO DESTROY THE  
**PHANTOM!**







HIS POWER CRAZED AMBITION IS SPREADING TO BENGALI! HE WANTS TO ELIMINATE THE PHANTOM BEFORE TAKING OVER! I MUST WARN *HIM*!

*IN A FEW DAYS...*

A TIGER...BEING TRAINED BY PRINCE TARAN TO *HUNT ME DOWN*...

IT WAS TERRIFYING! I'M GLAD I REACHED YOU BEFORE *HE* DID!



THANK YOU FOR ALERTING ME, COLONEL! FORE-  
WARNED IS FOREARMED!  
YOU ARE INDEED A  
TRUE FRIEND!

*THAT NIGHT, THE PHANTOM SITS IN DEEP THOUGHT...*

YOU SEEM WORRIED,  
PHANTOM! IS  
THERE SOMETHING  
I CAN DO TO HELP?

NO, GURAN...  
THANKS!

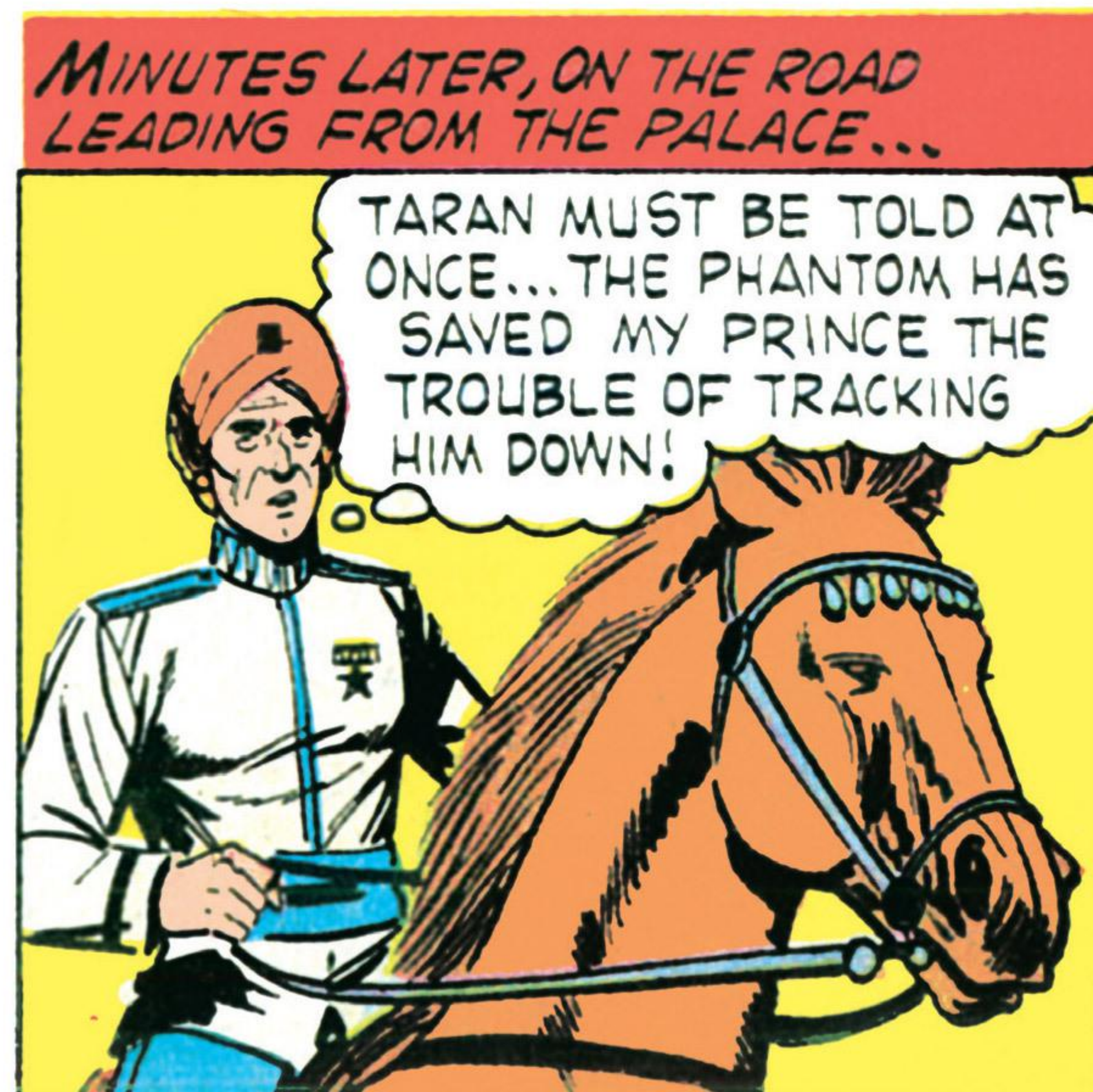
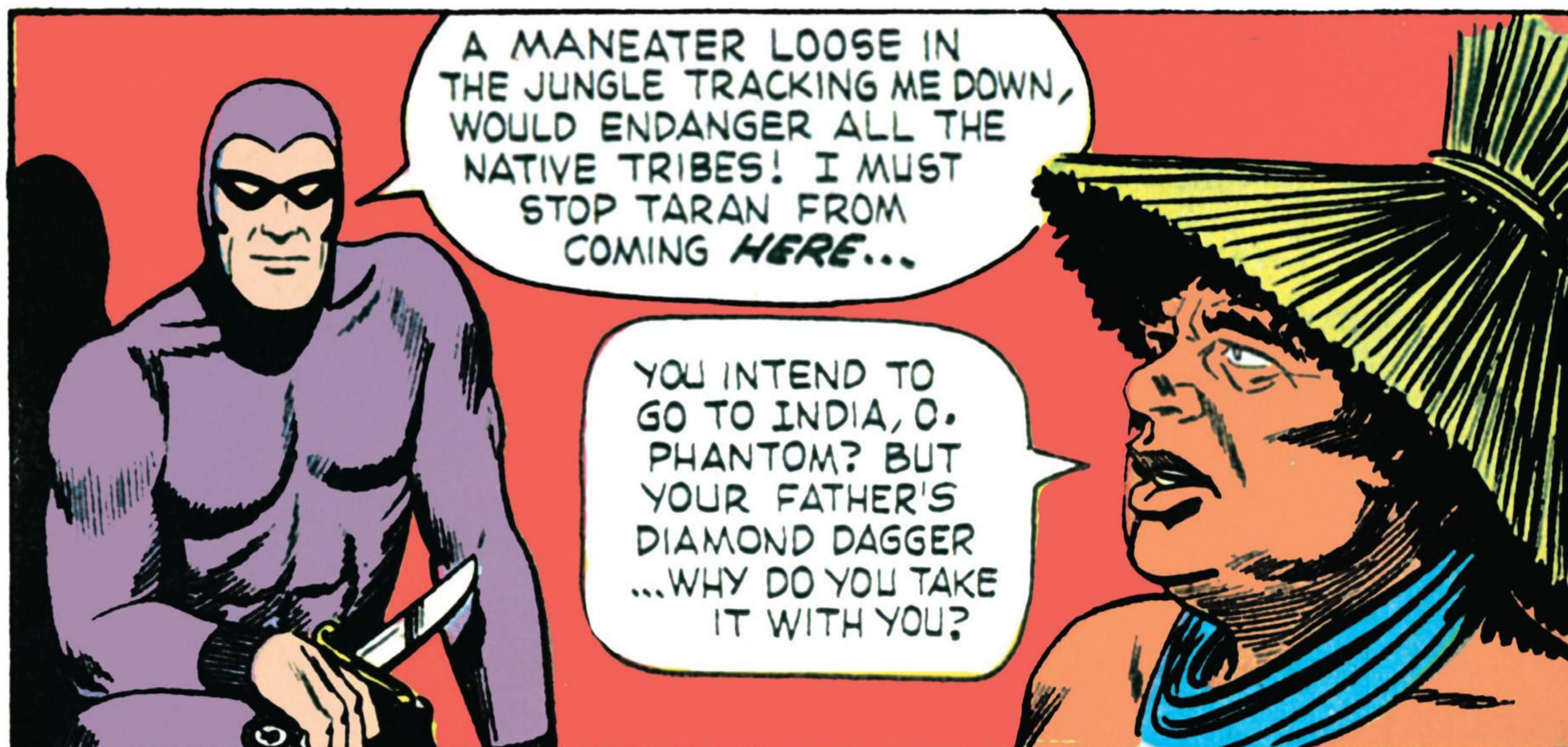


*THE PHANTOM ARISES AND TAKES A SMALL DIAMOND-STUDDED DAGGER FROM A SECRET COMPARTMENT IN THE SKULL THRONE...*

PRINCE TARAN WILL  
BE EASY ENOUGH TO  
HANDLE! BUT THAT TIGER  
OF HIS WORRIES ME!









THE PHANTOM AND SHAZA TALK  
OF THE DAYS OF THEIR FATHERS...

YES, AS A CHILD, MY  
FATHER ALSO TOLD ME  
OF THE DAY YOUR DAD  
SAVED HIS LIFE! THAT  
DAGGER WAS HIS  
MOST TREASURED  
POSSESSION!

AND THEN  
**THE GIFT**  
BECAME  
PRECIOUS  
TO **MY**  
FATHER...

...I REMEMBER AS A  
YOUNG BOY HOW HE  
SHOWED ME THIS  
COMPASS HIDDEN IN  
THE HANDLE! HE TOLD  
ME MANY STORIES,  
TOO, BUT...

CLICK!

...CHILDHOOD  
MEMORIES CAN BE  
HAZY! PERHAPS WE  
CAN TALK AGAIN WHEN  
I'VE FINISHED MY  
BUSINESS HERE!

I HOPE SO!  
IT WOULD BE  
GOOD FOR US TO  
BE FRIENDS!

TAKE CARE, PHANTOM! THE ROAD  
YOU TRAVEL IS FILLED WITH MANY  
PITFALLS!

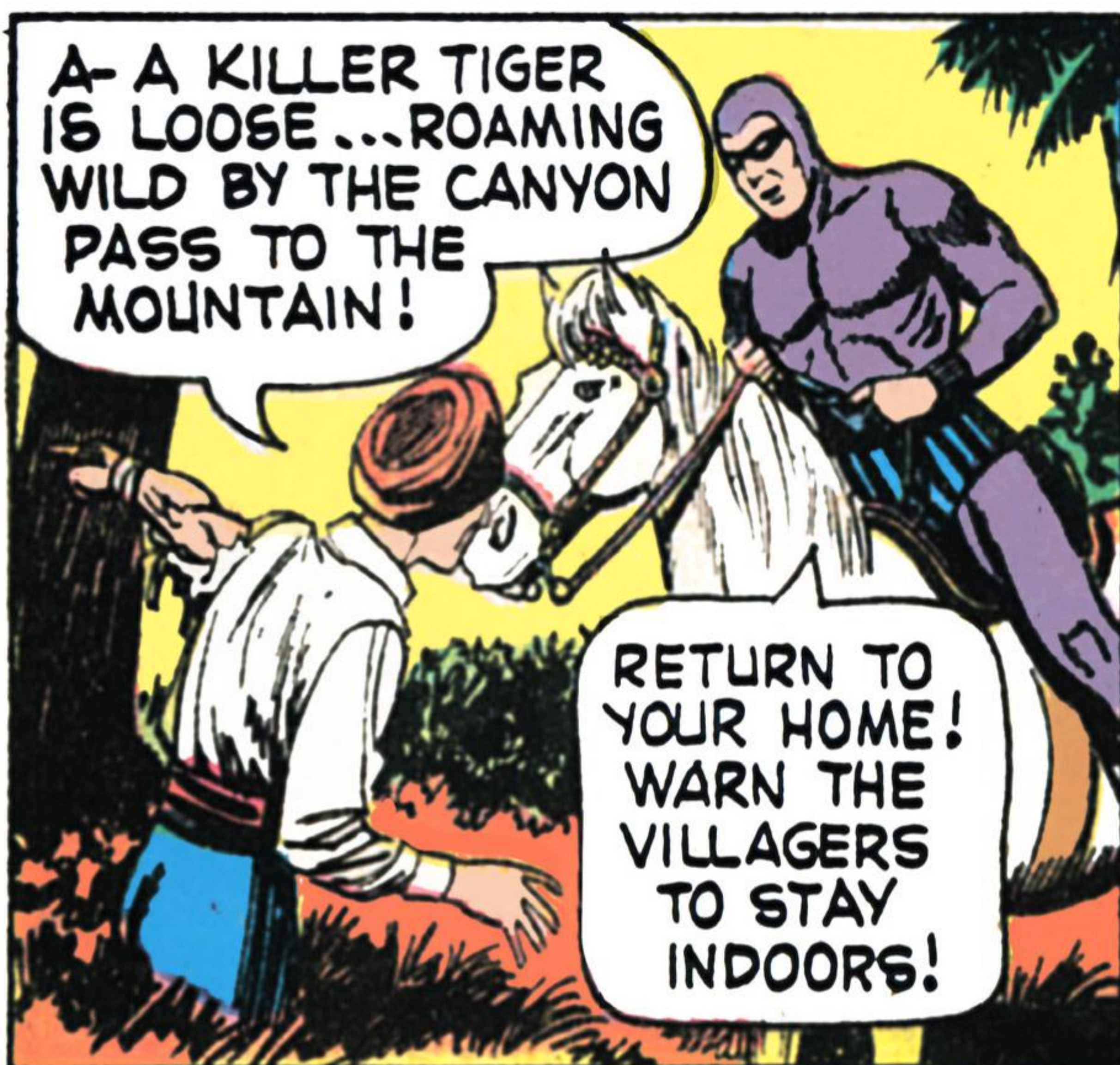
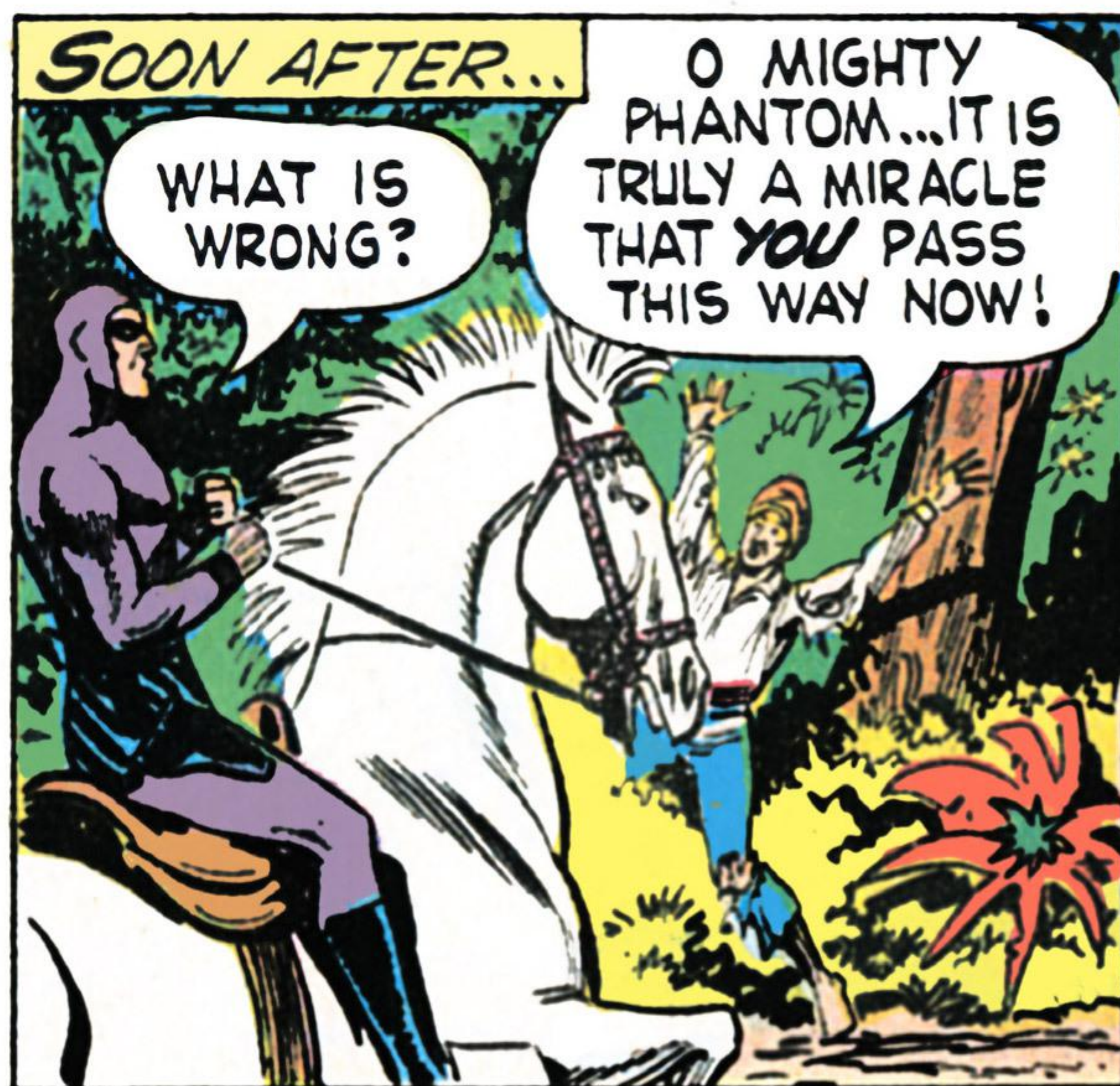
I SHALL...  
TILL WE MEET  
AGAIN, SHAZA.

LATER...

THE PHANTOM...  
ON THE ROAD TO  
MY PALACE...

YOU **SEE**, I  
DO NOT LIE,  
PRINCE TARAN!  
THE PHANTOM  
**IS** IN INDIA!

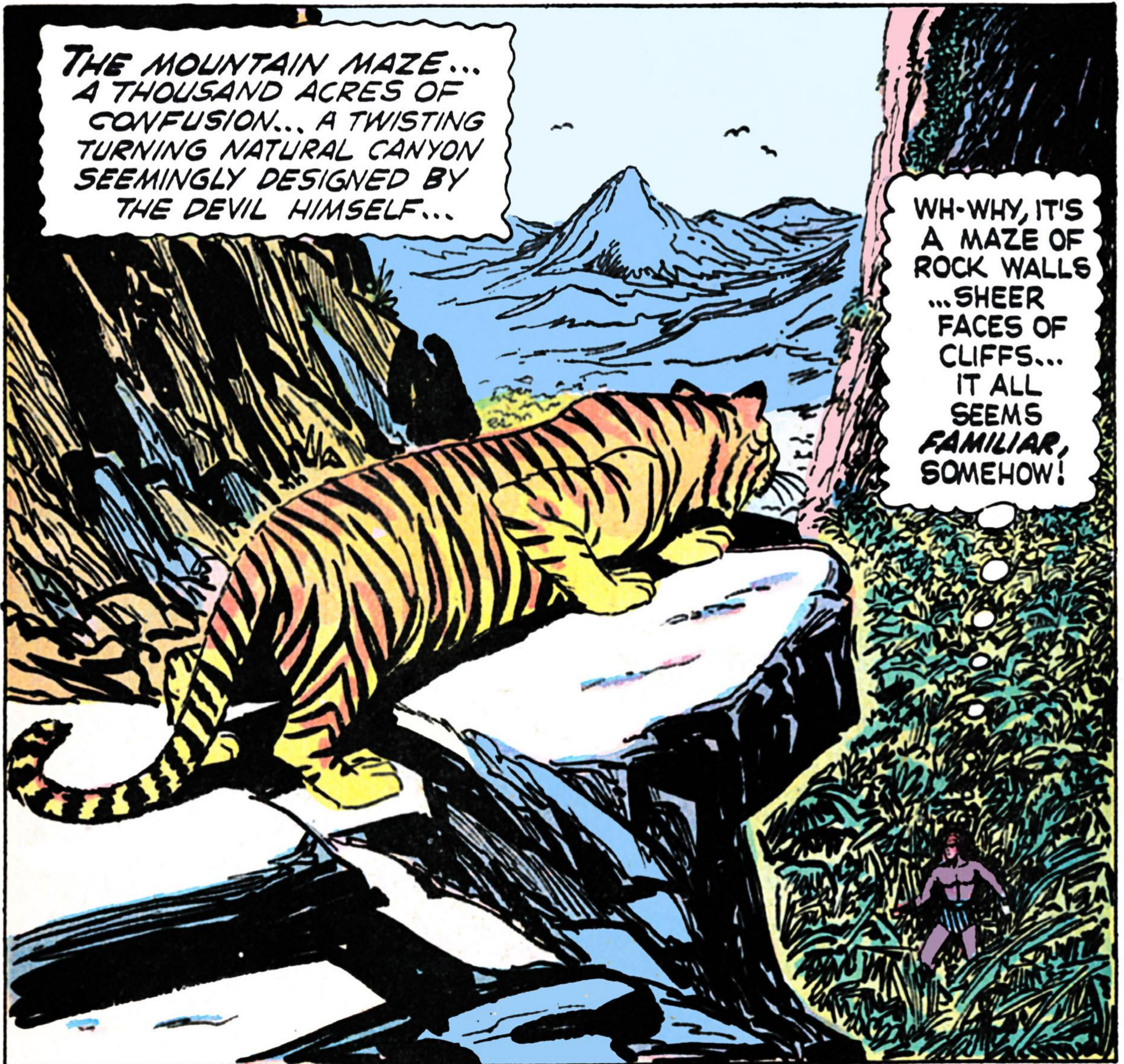






*THE MOUNTAIN MAZE...  
A THOUSAND ACRES OF  
CONFUSION... A TWISTING  
TURNING NATURAL CANYON  
SEEMINGLY DESIGNED BY  
THE DEVIL HIMSELF...*

WH-WHY, IT'S  
A MAZE OF  
ROCK WALLS  
...SHEER  
FACES OF  
CLIFFS...  
IT ALL  
SEEMS  
*FAMILIAR,*  
SOMEHOW!



*OF COURSE!* THE MOUNTAIN MAZE!  
THIS WAS PART OF THE STORY DAD  
TOLD ME AS A CHILD! *THIS* IS  
WHERE HE SAVED  
THE SULTAN'S LIFE!

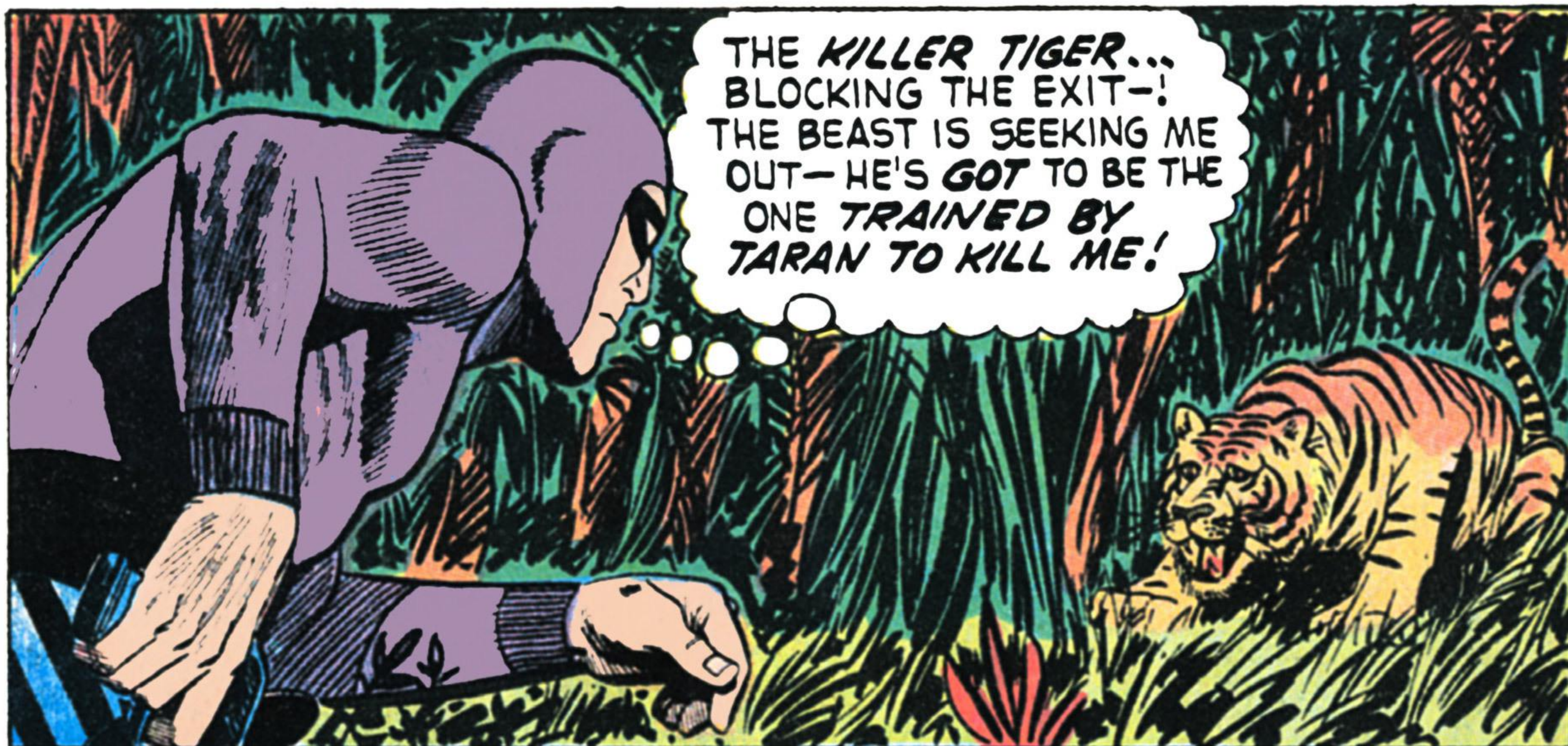


IT WOULD BE  
FOOLHARDY TO  
TRACK A TIGER  
IN THIS DEATH  
TRAP! I'LL...

WHA-?

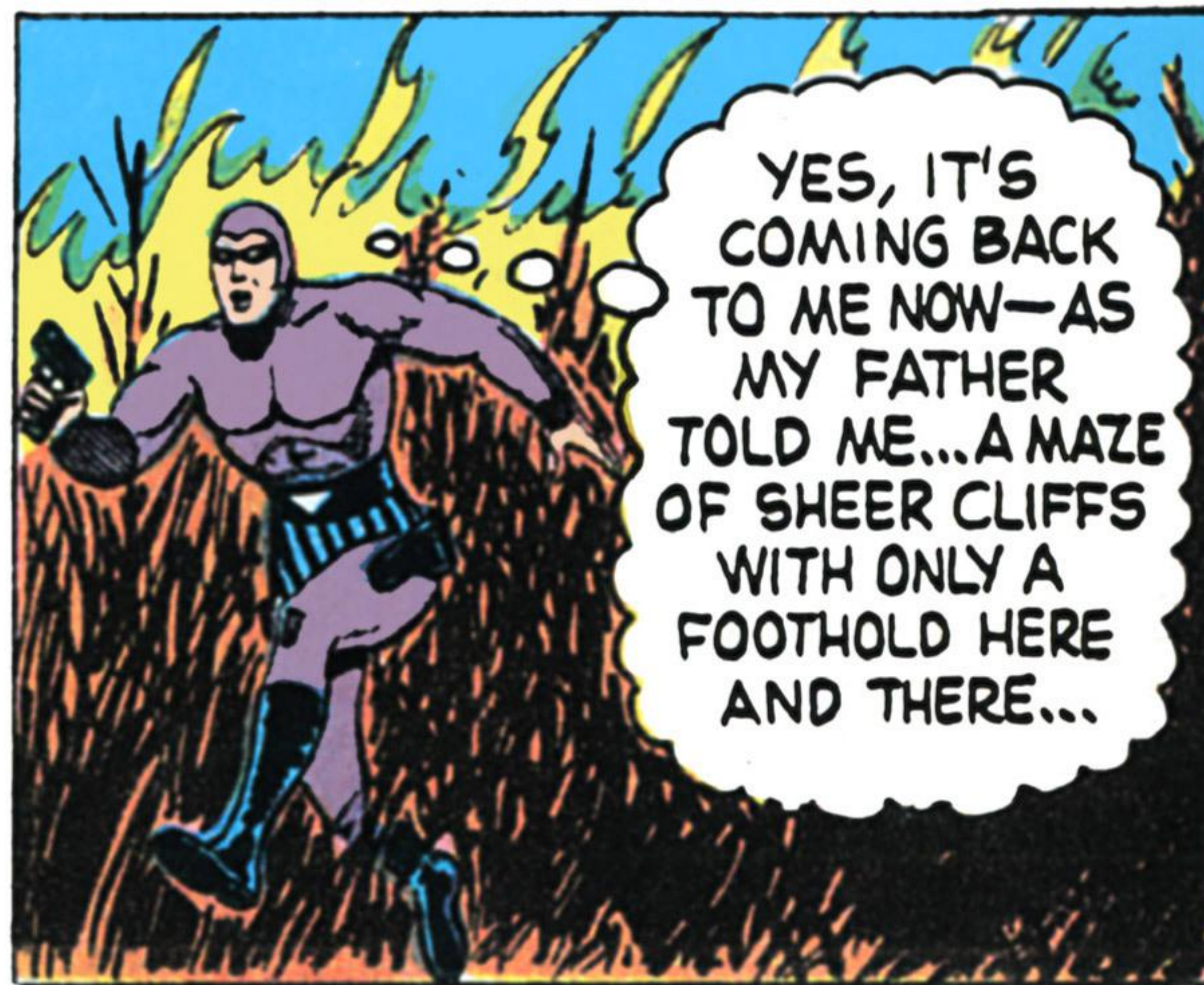






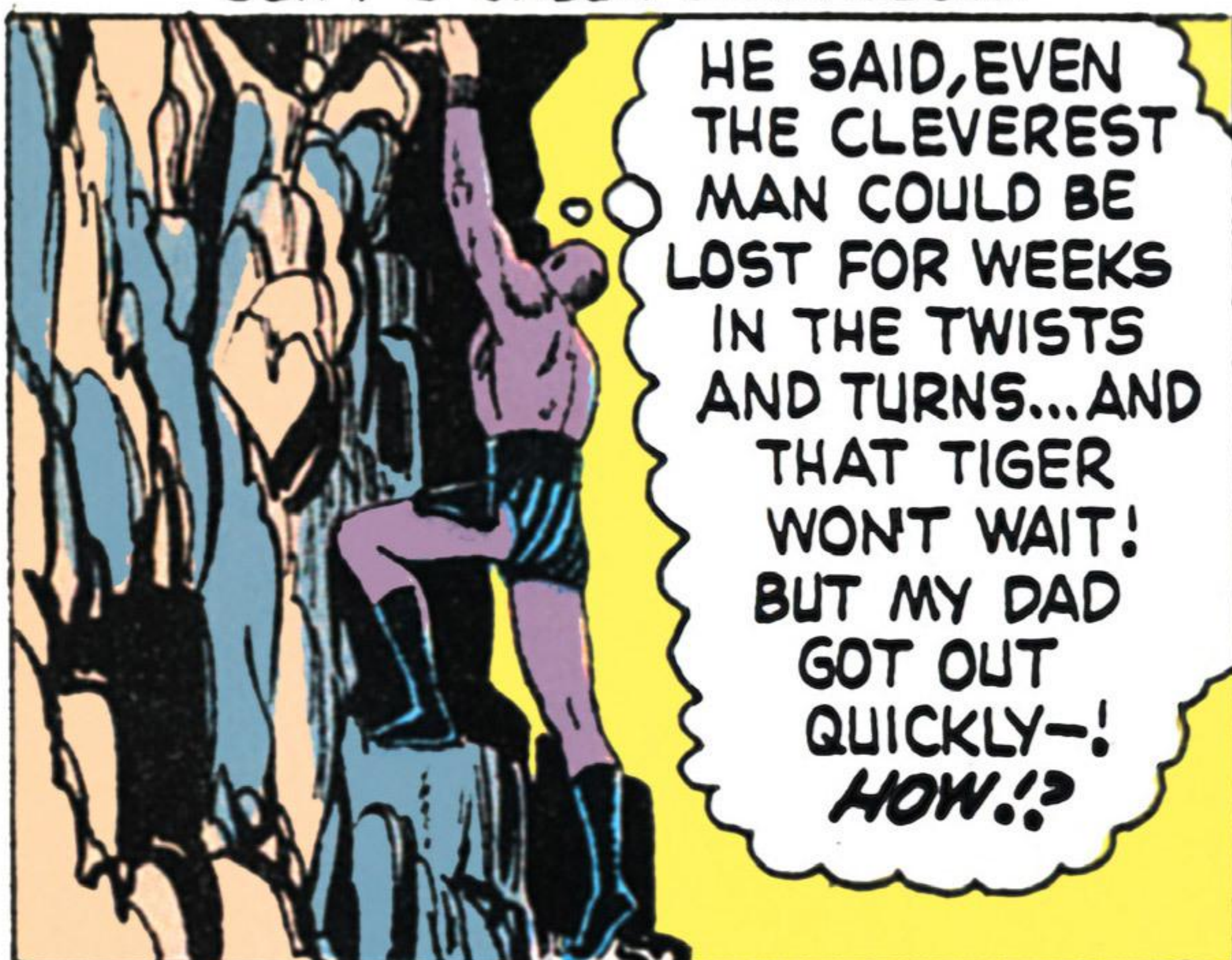
*HOLDING THE TIGER OFF WITH GUNFIRE, THE PHANTOM MAKES A DESPERATE MOVE...*

*AS THE PHANTOM RACES OFF BEHIND A WALL OF FIRE, HIS MIND GOES BACK TO HIS CHILDHOOD...*



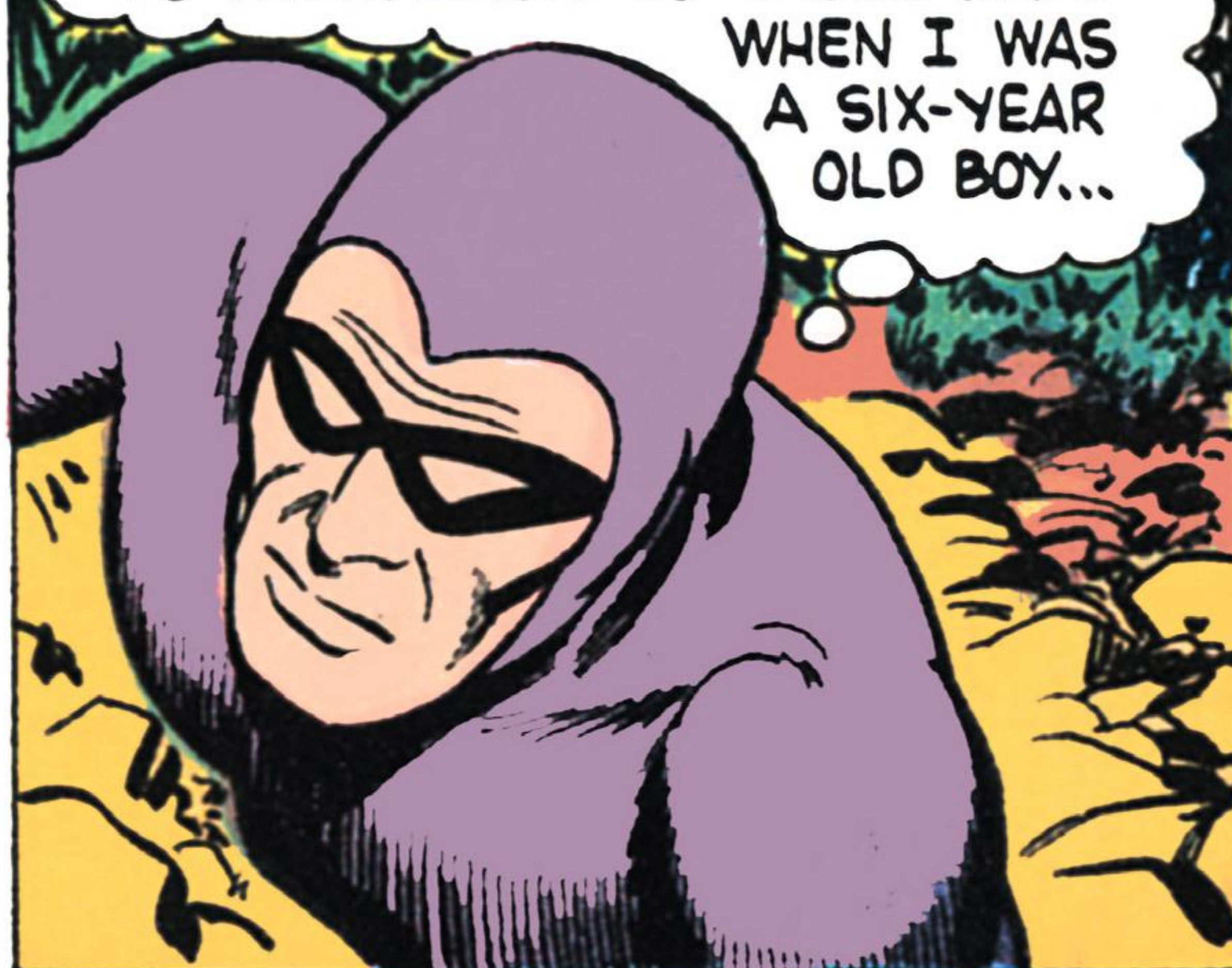


**THE PHANTOM TRIES TO COLLECT HIS THOUGHTS AS HE SCALES ONE OF THE CLIFF'S SHEER SURFACES...**



HE SAID, EVEN THE CLEVEREST MAN COULD BE LOST FOR WEEKS IN THE TWISTS AND TURNS... AND THAT TIGER WONT WAIT! BUT MY DAD GOT OUT QUICKLY-! **HOW!?**

HOW DID HE ESCAPE? HE SAVED THE SULTAN **AND** HIMSELF... GOT TO THINK BACK TO THOSE DAYS WHEN I WAS A SIX-YEAR OLD BOY...



**THE PHANTOM'S MIND GOES BACK IN TIME... TO THE DAYS OF HIS CHILDHOOD AND HIS FATHER...**



THE MOUNTAIN MAZE WAS A FEARSOME TRICK OF NATURE! THE SULTAN AND I MIGHT NEVER HAVE BEEN SEEN AGAIN!

...BUT WE WERE IN LUCK, FOR THE SULTAN HAD A SPECIAL DIAMOND-STUDDED DAGGER...



...INSIDE THE HANDLE WAS A SECRET COMPASS WITH ITS TINY MAGNETIZED NEEDLE...





**SUDDENLY, THE PHANTOM RECALLS...**

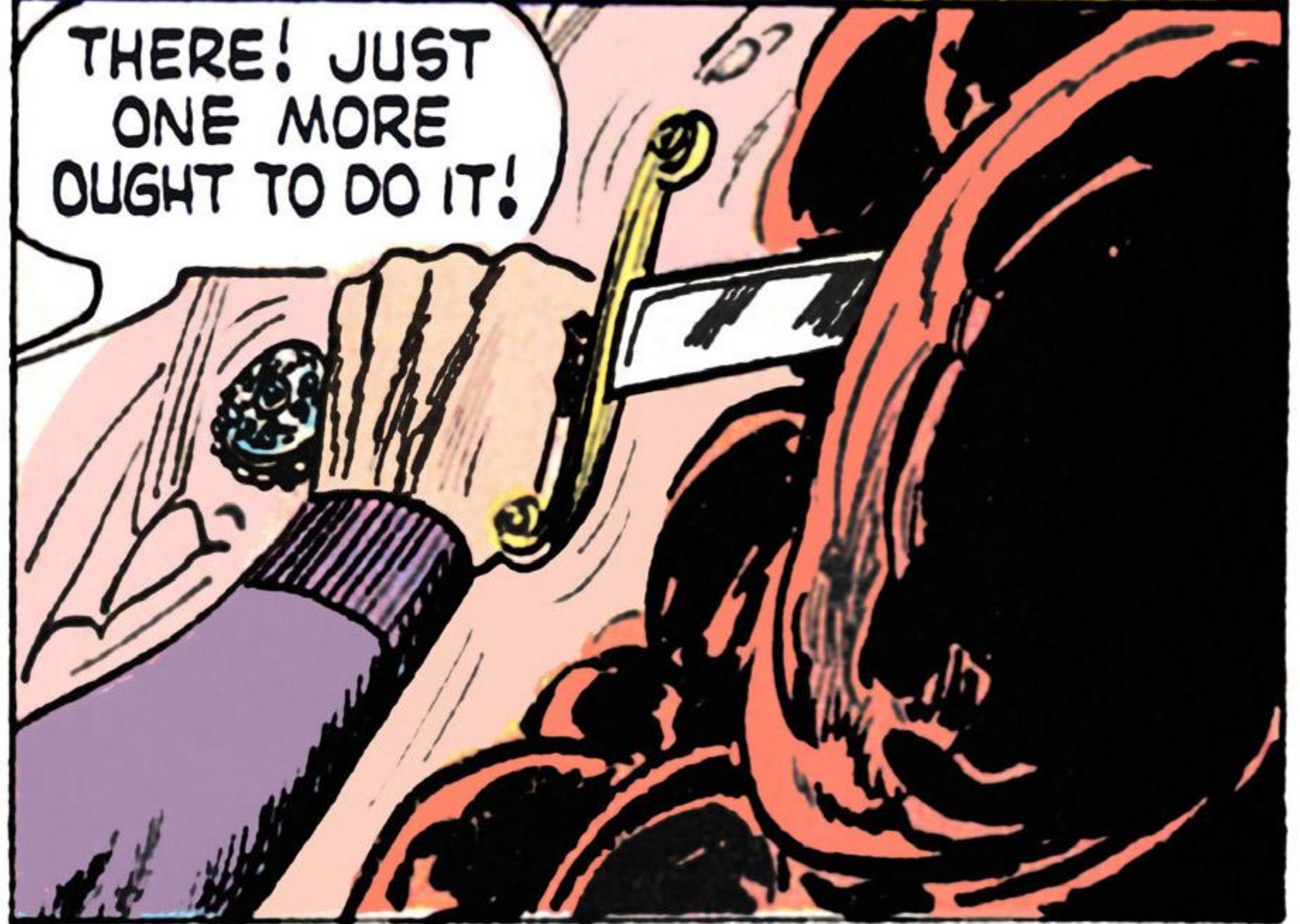
**THAT'S IT!  
THE SECRET  
INVOLVED THE  
COMPASS! HOW  
DID IT WORK  
AGAIN...**

**OF COURSE!  
BUT FIRST,  
I'D BETTER  
GET RID OF  
THAT TIGER!**



**WORKING QUICKLY, HE FORCES THE  
DAGGER POINT INTO A CREVICE...  
LONG MINUTES LATER THE AGED  
STONE BEGINS TO CRUMBLE...**

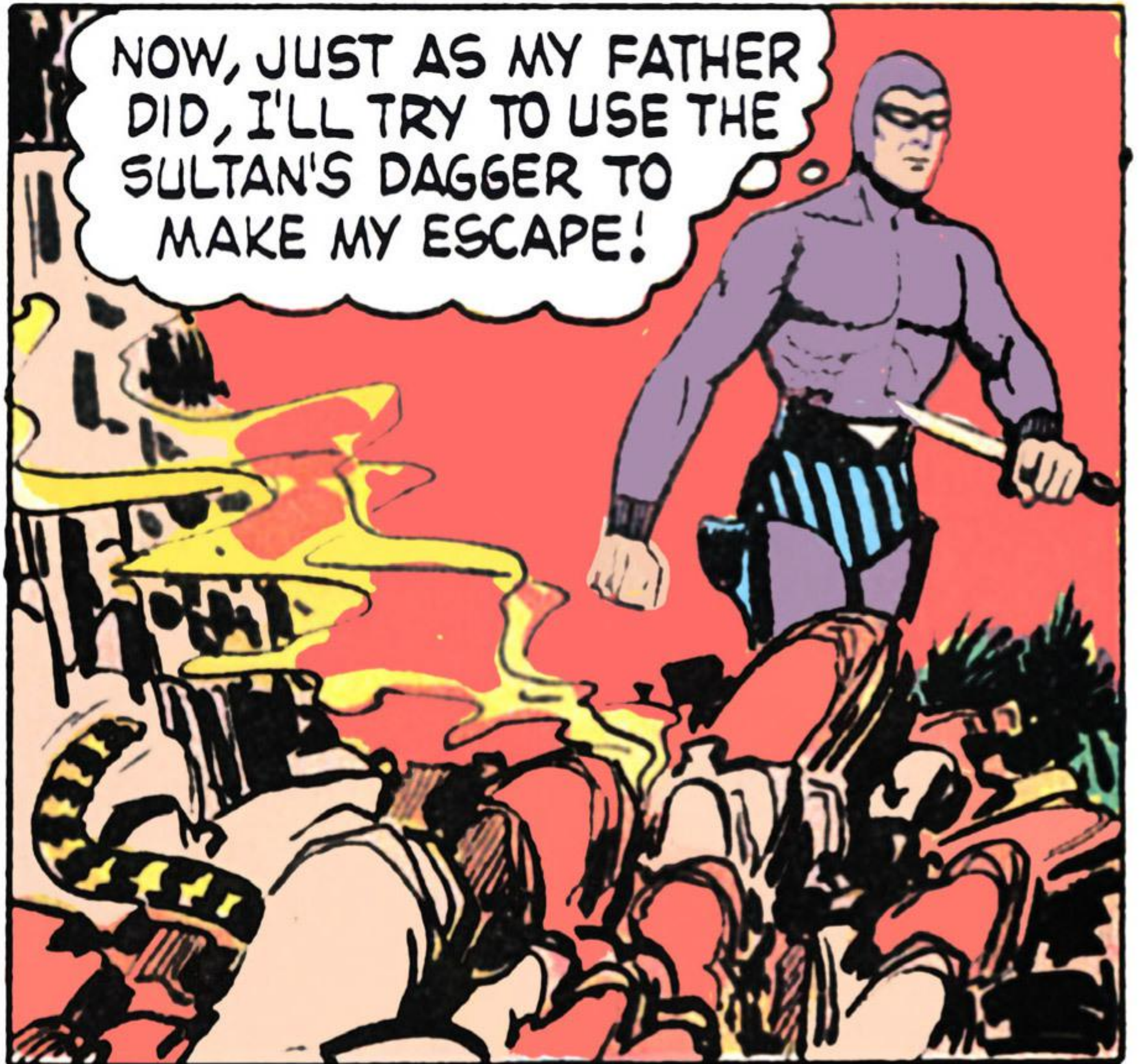
**THERE! JUST  
ONE MORE  
OUGHT TO DO IT!**



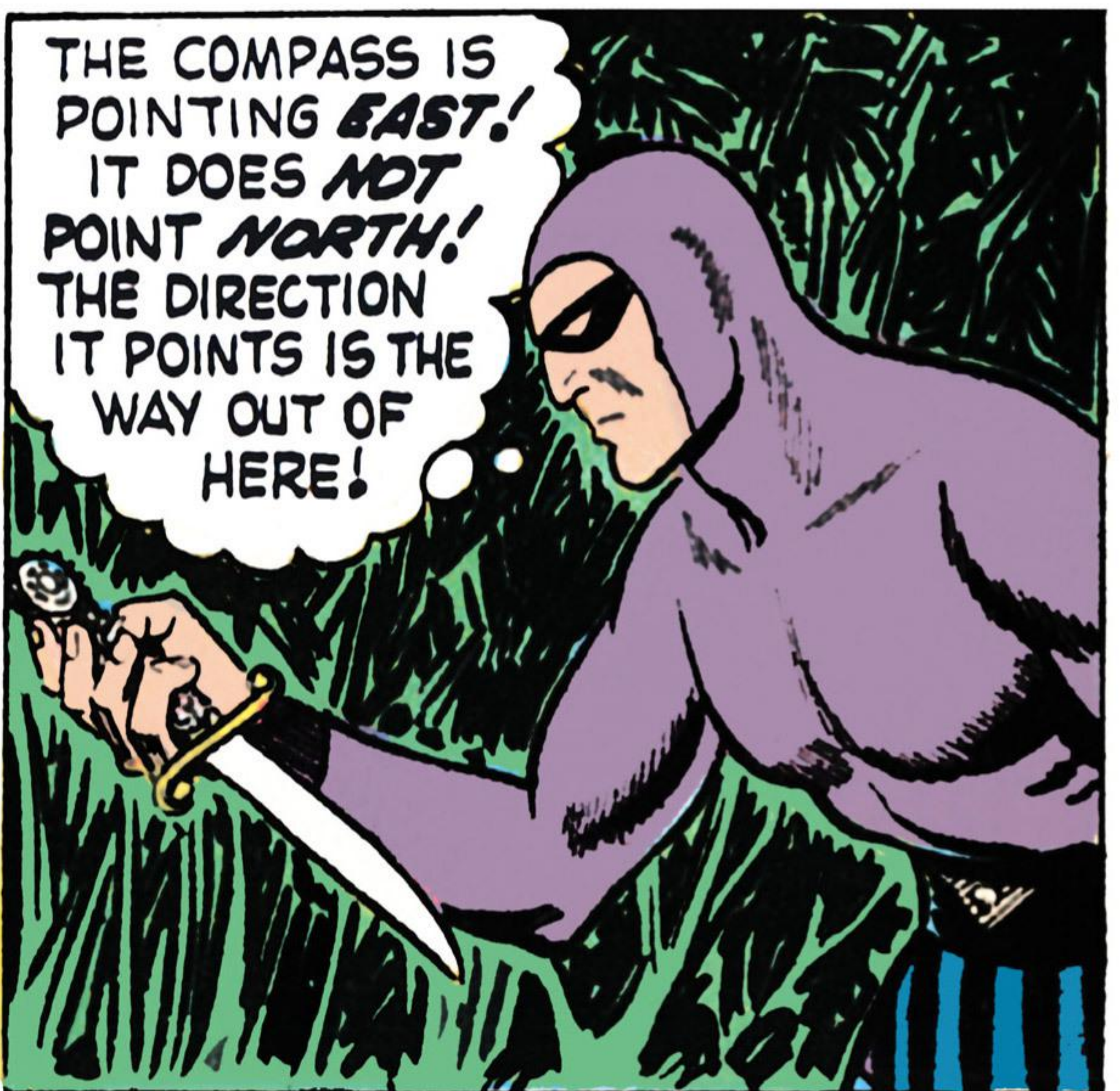
**YOU ARE THE  
ONE DOOMED BY  
THE MOUNTAIN  
MAZE NOW,  
TERROR TIGER!**



**NOW, JUST AS MY FATHER  
DID, I'LL TRY TO USE THE  
SULTAN'S DAGGER TO  
MAKE MY ESCAPE!**



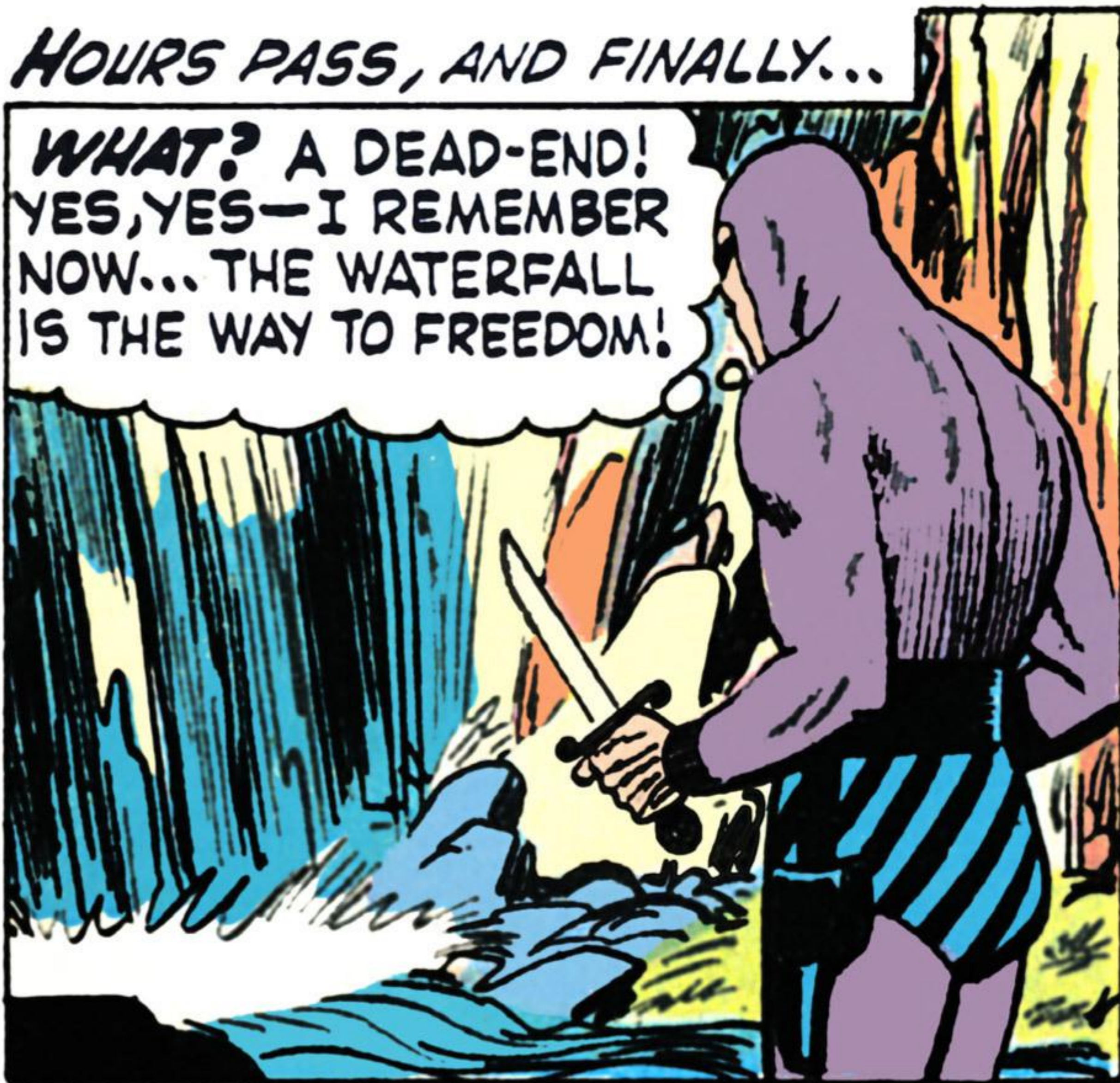
**THE COMPASS IS  
POINTING *EAST*!  
IT DOES *NOT*  
POINT *NORTH*!  
THE DIRECTION  
IT POINTS IS THE  
WAY OUT OF  
HERE!**



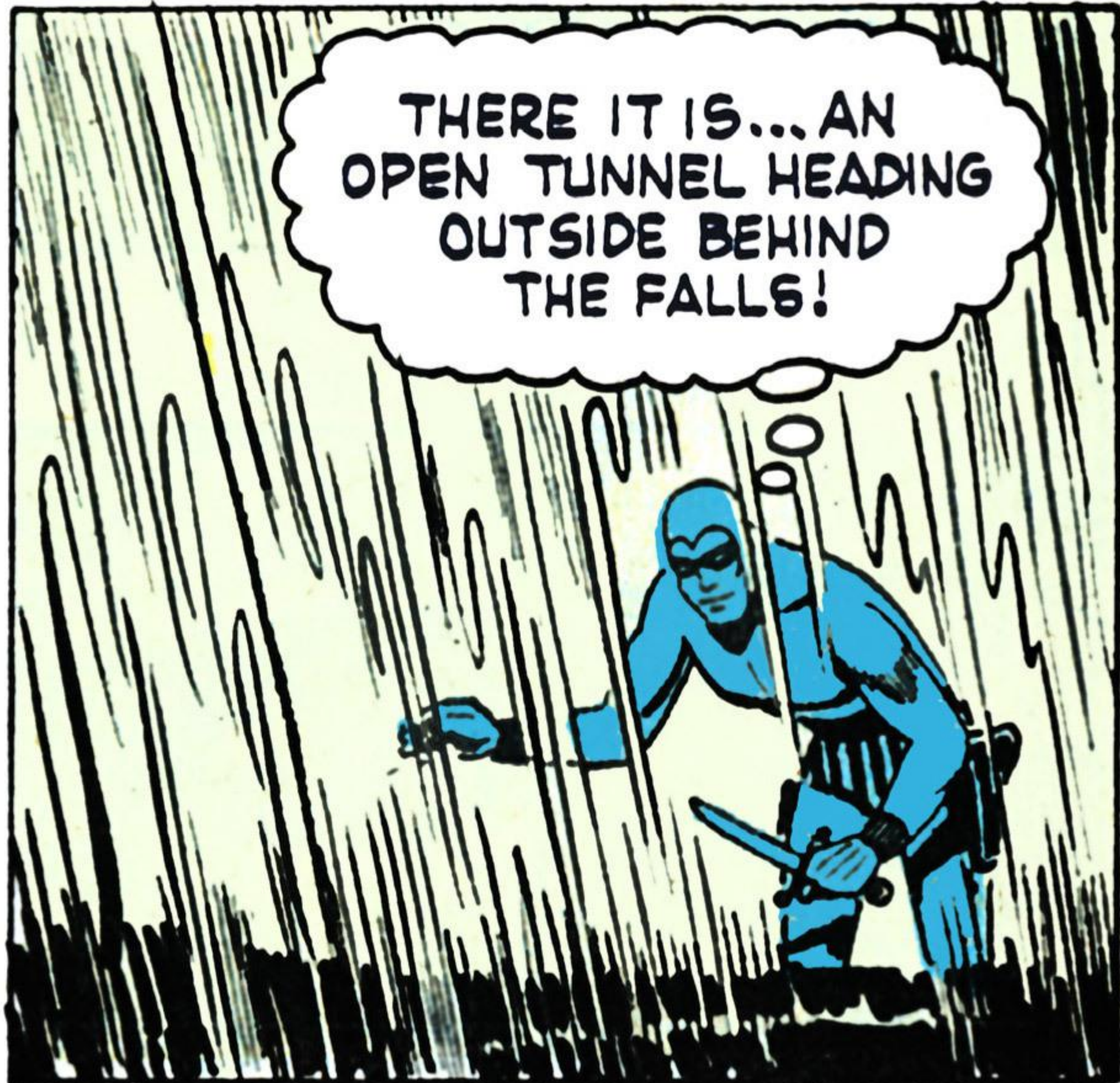


HOURS PASS, AND FINALLY...

WHAT? A DEAD-END!  
YES, YES—I REMEMBER  
NOW... THE WATERFALL  
IS THE WAY TO FREEDOM!



THERE IT IS... AN  
OPEN TUNNEL HEADING  
OUTSIDE BEHIND  
THE FALLS!



LATER, AS THE PHANTOM BIDS  
FAREWELL TO SULTAN SHAZA...

THE DAGGER BOTH OUR PARENTS  
TREASURED GUIDED YOU OUT OF  
THE DREADED MAZE! B-BUT HOW?

SIMPLE,  
REALLY...



OUR FATHERS KNEW THE MAGNETIZED  
COMPASS NEEDLE WAS DRAWN TO THE  
HEAVY IRON ORE DEPOSITS BEHIND THE  
WATERFALL INSTEAD OF TRUE NORTH!  
THE ONE MEANS  
OF ESCAPE!



IT IS NO WONDER  
OUR FATHERS WERE  
SUCH FRIENDS—  
WITH THE DAGGER,  
YOUR FATHER  
SAVED BOTH  
THEIR LIVES!

ALTHOUGH I  
WILL HAVE THE  
DAGGER, IT WILL  
ALWAYS BELONG  
TO **BOTH** OF US!



A LONG-LOST SECRET FORTRESS..  
A BOILING VOLCANO..  
THE RESTLESS GHOST OF  
AN ANGRY WITCH DOCTOR...  
**DON'T MISS... THE  
TERROR OF MAGIC  
MOUNTAIN...**

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF...  
**THE PHANTOM**  
ON SALE... MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>





Above: original Jim Aparo artwork for Charlton's *The Phantom* #32, read the entire story in Hermes Press' *The Phantom: The Complete Series: The Charlton Years: Volume One*.



# THE PHANTOM





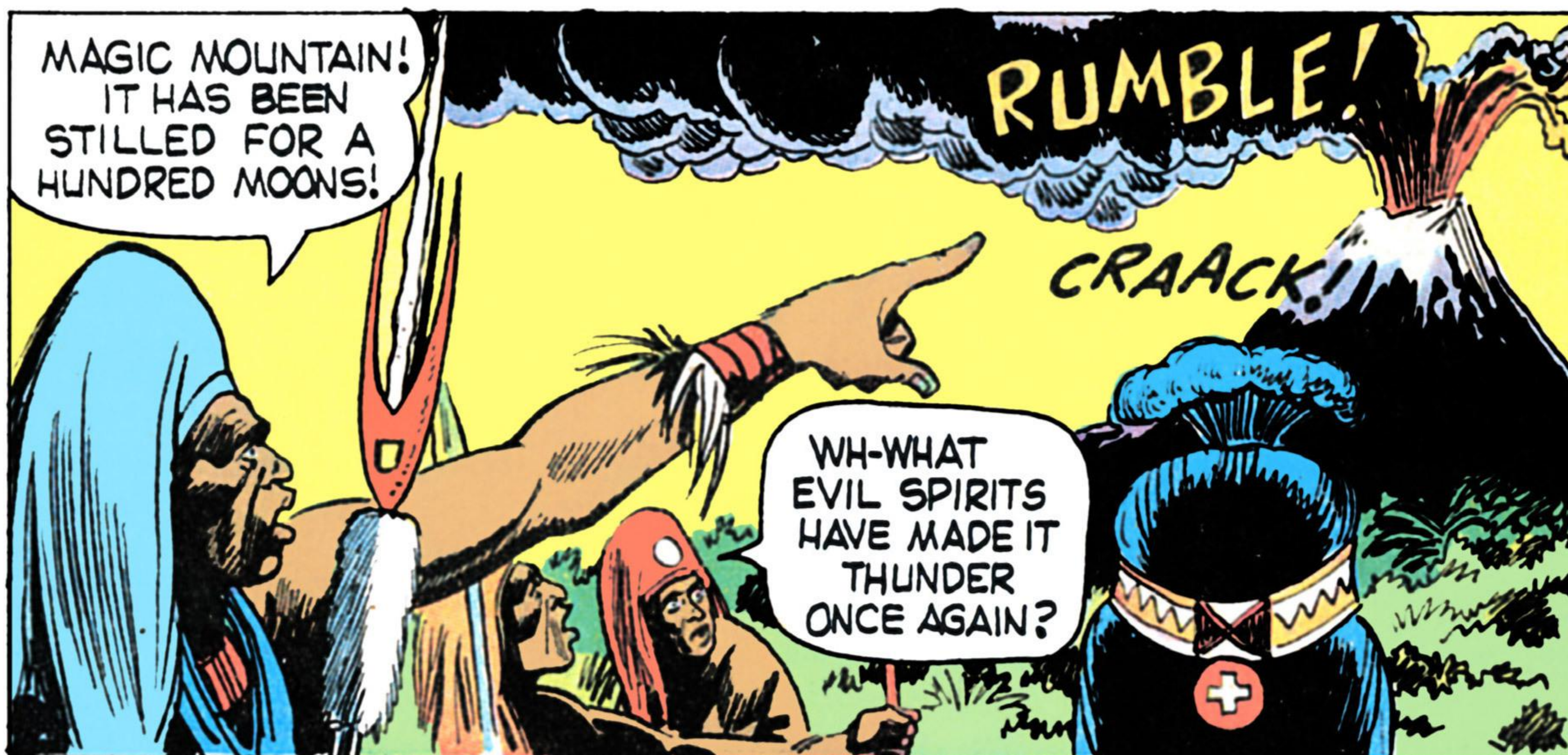
# THE PHANTOM The SECRET of MAGIC MOUNTAIN

SEE! SEE!  
**KIYANGA**  
IS SHAKING THE  
MOUNTAIN IN HIS  
WRATH! **HURRY!**  
DESTROY THE  
PHANTOM BEFORE  
KIYANGA'S ANGER  
POURS MOLTON  
LAVA DOWN UPON  
OUR VILLAGE!

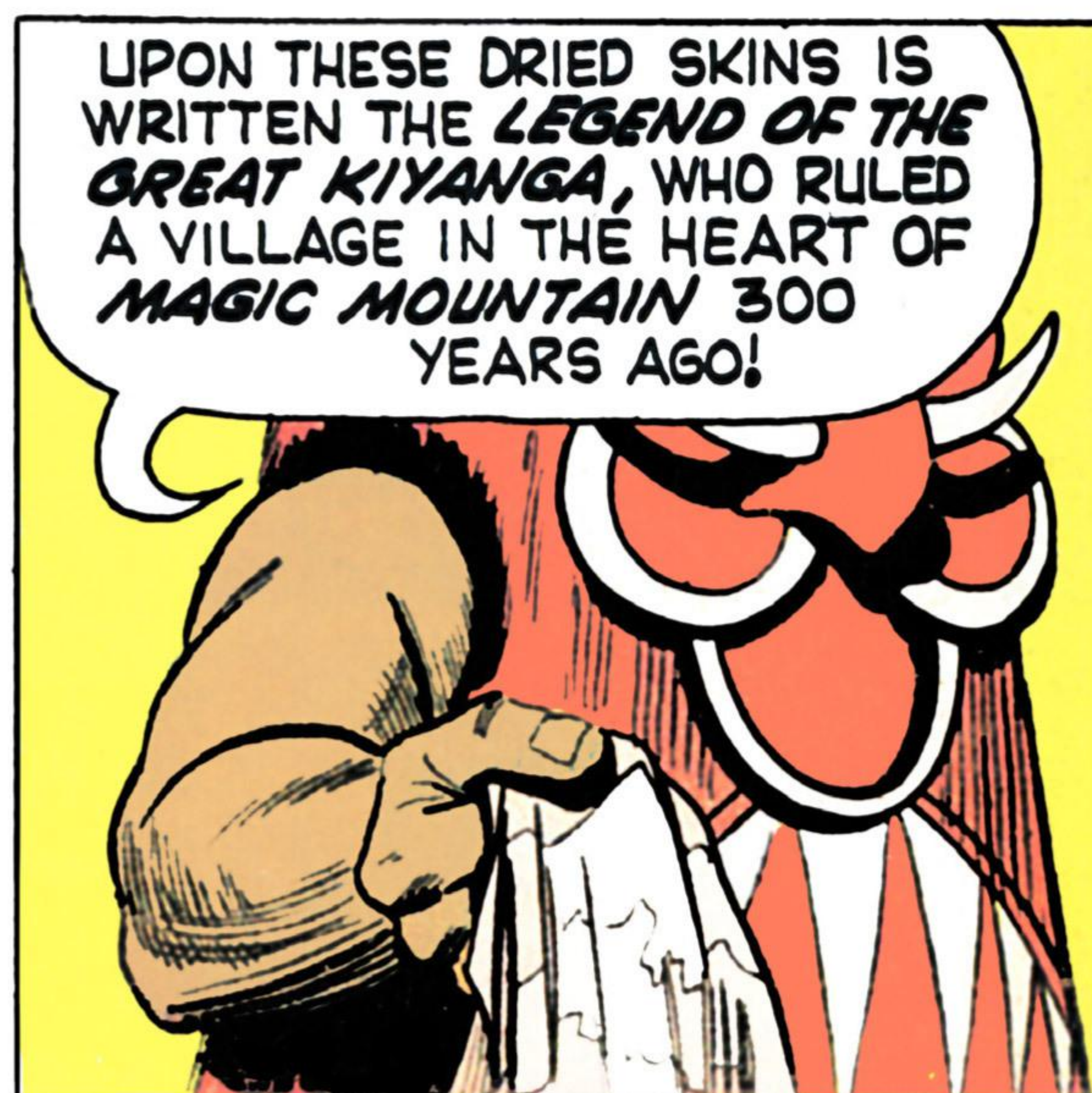
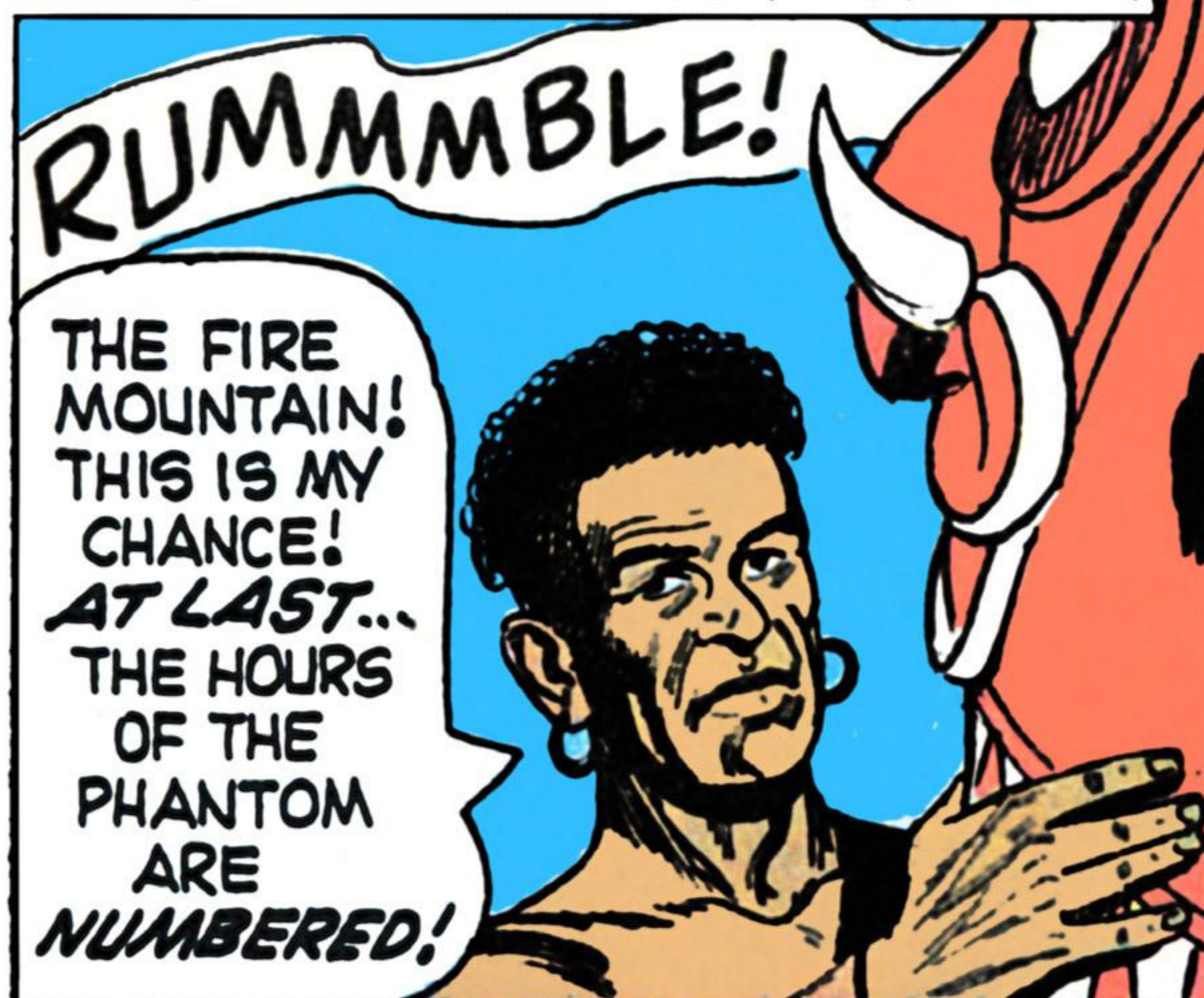


*THE MOUNTAIN TREMBLED AND TULLUCK, THE WAMBESI WITCH DOCTOR, ROARED HAPPILY. THIS WAS HIS GREATEST MOMENT OF ALL... THE DAY HE COULD USE THE SPIRIT OF A LONG-DEAD WITCH DOCTOR TO SMASH THE PHANTOM'S POWER AND CONTROL THE TERRORIZED NATIVES WITH HIS BLACK MAGIC MUMBO JUMBO.*



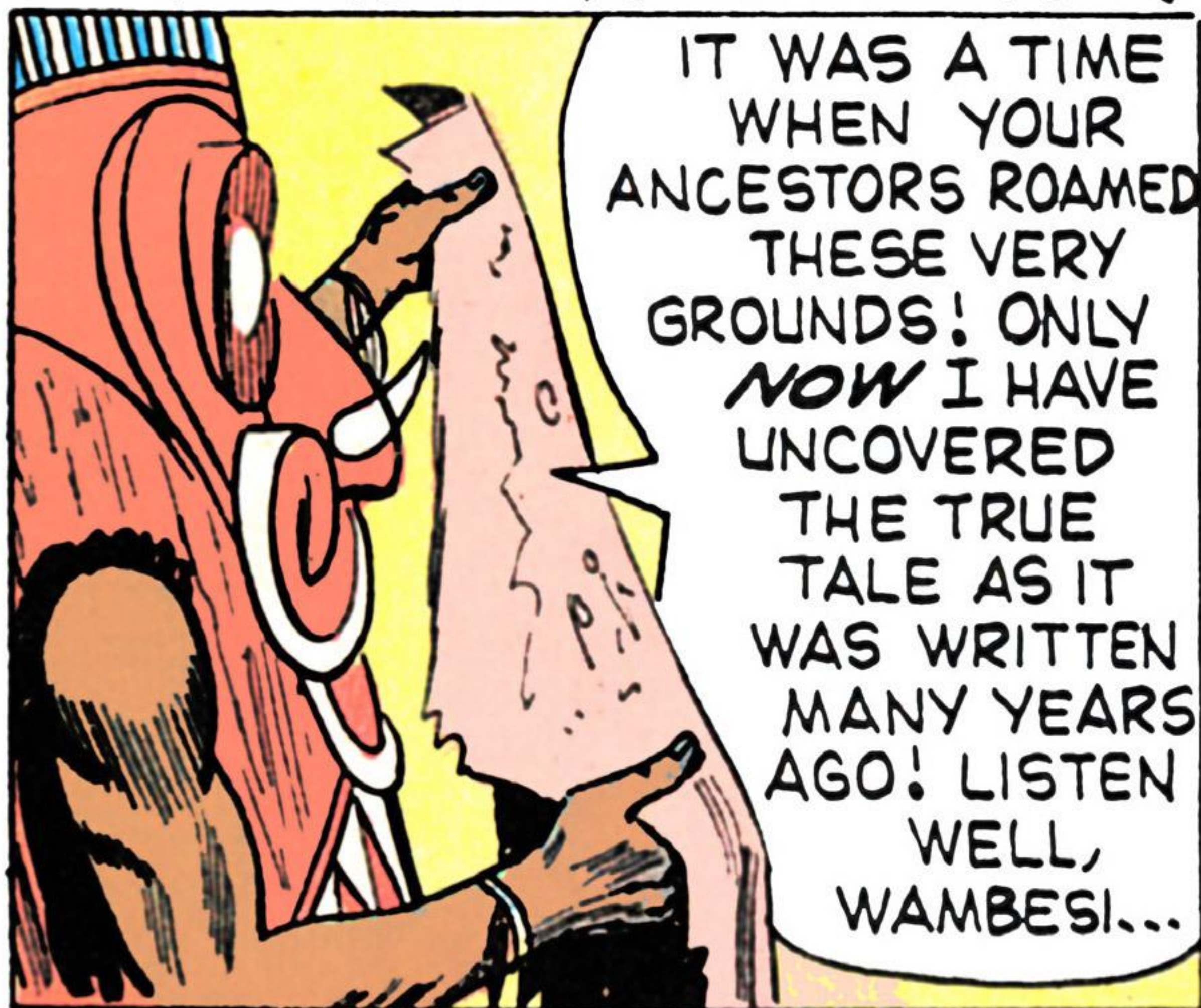


A FEW MILES AWAY, TULUCK, THE  
WAMBESI WITCH DOCTOR LISTENS...

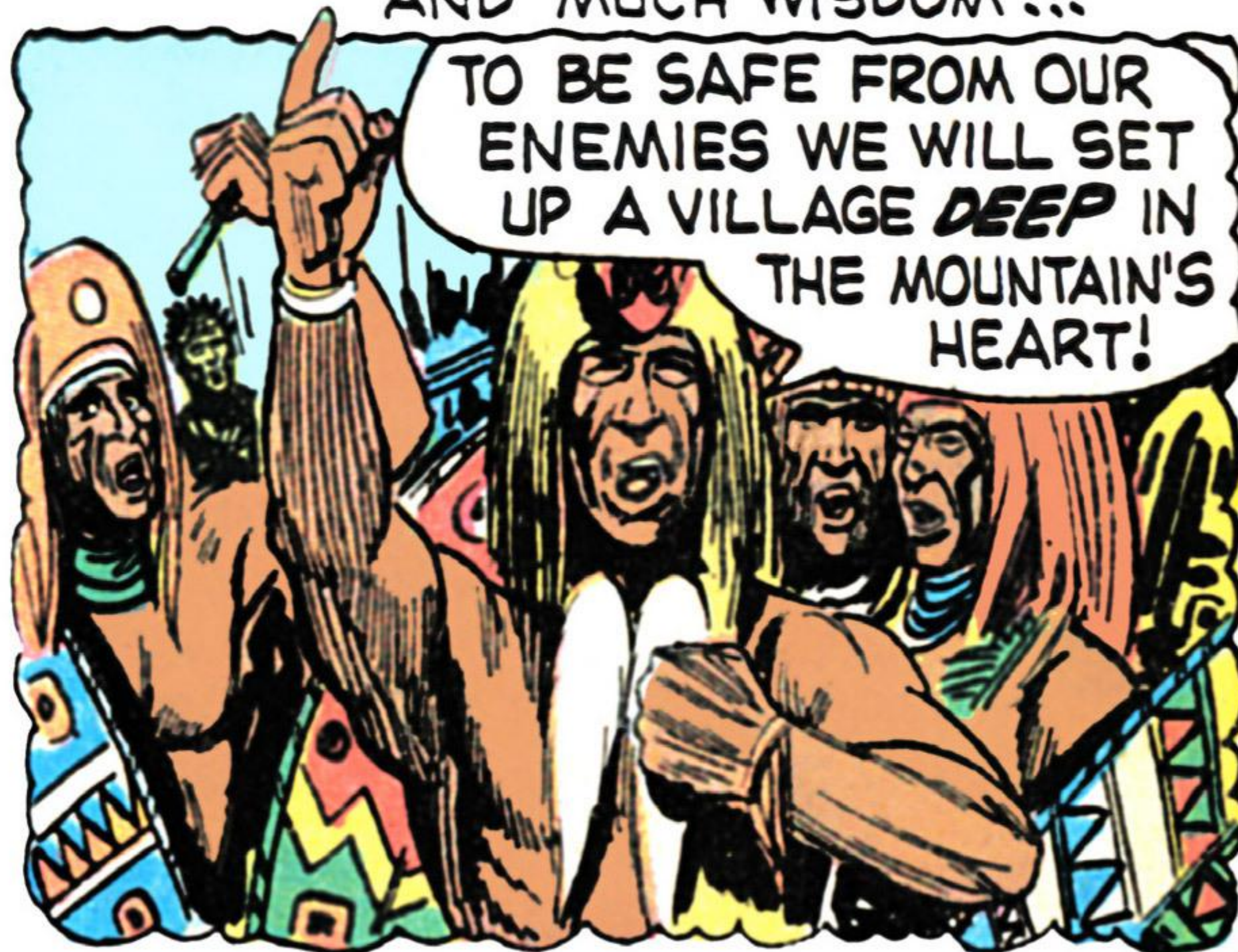




THE FRIGHTENED WAMBESI LISTEN  
IN AWE AS TULUCK READS...



"KIYANGA WAS BOTH CHIEF AND  
WITCH DOCTOR OF THE WAMBESI...  
A LEADER WITH GREAT POWERS  
AND MUCH WISDOM..."



"KIYANGA LED HIS TRIBE  
FAR INTO THE MOUNTAIN..."

DO NOT FEAR... YOU ARE WITH THE  
MIGHTY KIYANGA! WE SHALL FIND  
A SAFE HOME!



"FINALLY..."

**THIS** IS WHERE  
WE SHALL BUILD  
OUR VILLAGE!  
NEITHER THE  
ANIMALS OF THE  
JUNGLE NOR OUR TWO-  
FOOTED ENEMIES CAN  
HARM US HERE!



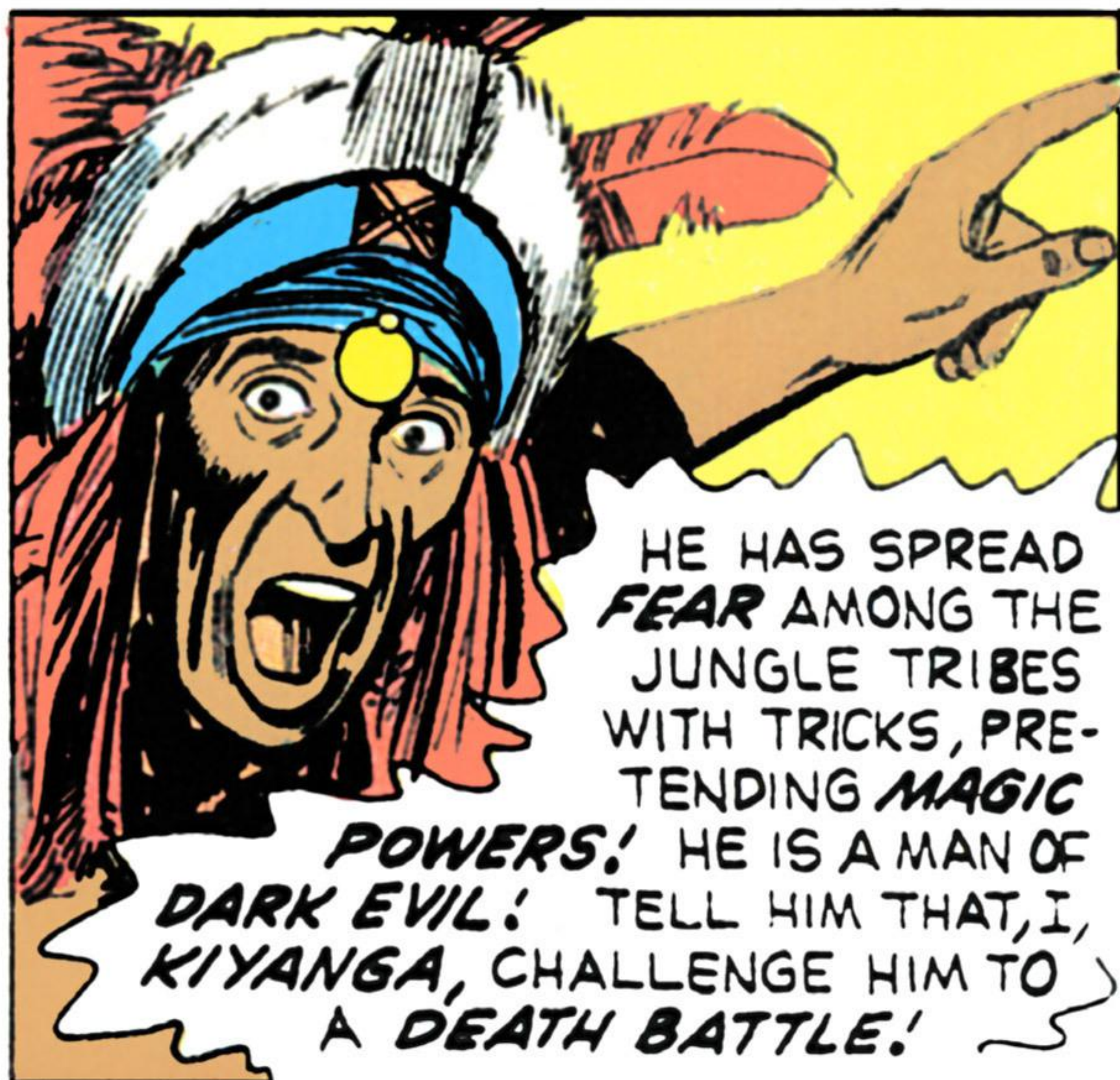
"BUT KIYANGA WAS WRONG — ONE  
ENEMY STILL PURSUED THEM..."

A-A HOODED  
FIGURE WHO  
CALLS HIMSELF  
**PHANTOM** SEEKS  
A TRIBUTE IN  
IVORY NOT TO  
**REVEAL** OUR  
HIDDEN VILLAGE!

**THE PHANTOM!**  
I HAVE HEARD OF  
THIS CREATURE OF  
THE JUNGLE  
DEPTHS!







HE HAS SPREAD **FEAR** AMONG THE JUNGLE TRIBES WITH TRICKS, PRE-TENDING **MAGIC POWERS!** HE IS A MAN OF **DARK EVIL!** TELL HIM THAT, I, **KIYANGA**, CHALLENGE HIM TO A **DEATH BATTLE!**

"SO IT WAS THAT PHANTOM EVIL MET THE MAGIC MIGHT OF THE GREAT KIYANGA..."

PREPARE TO DIE, KIYANGA! THE PHANTOM IS ALL POWERFUL!

IT IS **YOUR** EVIL THAT WILL BE BURIED HERE THIS DAY, PHANTOM!



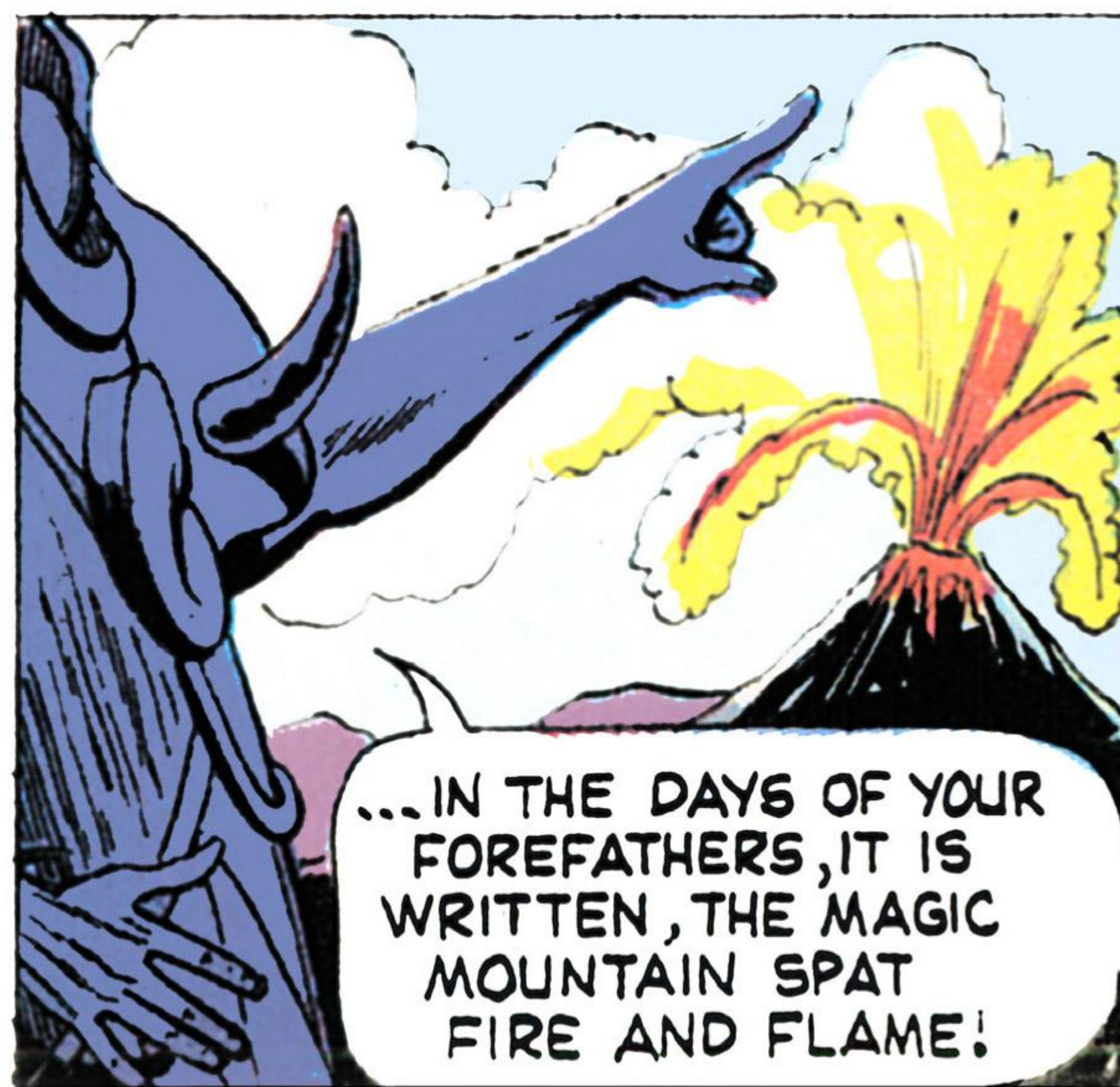
"LONG THEY BATTLED WITHIN THE MOUNTAIN CHAMBER...THE SUN ROSE HIGH IN THE HEAVENS...AND FINALLY..."

DOG OF A JACKAL ... YOU EVADE ME LIKE THE SWAMP GNATS!



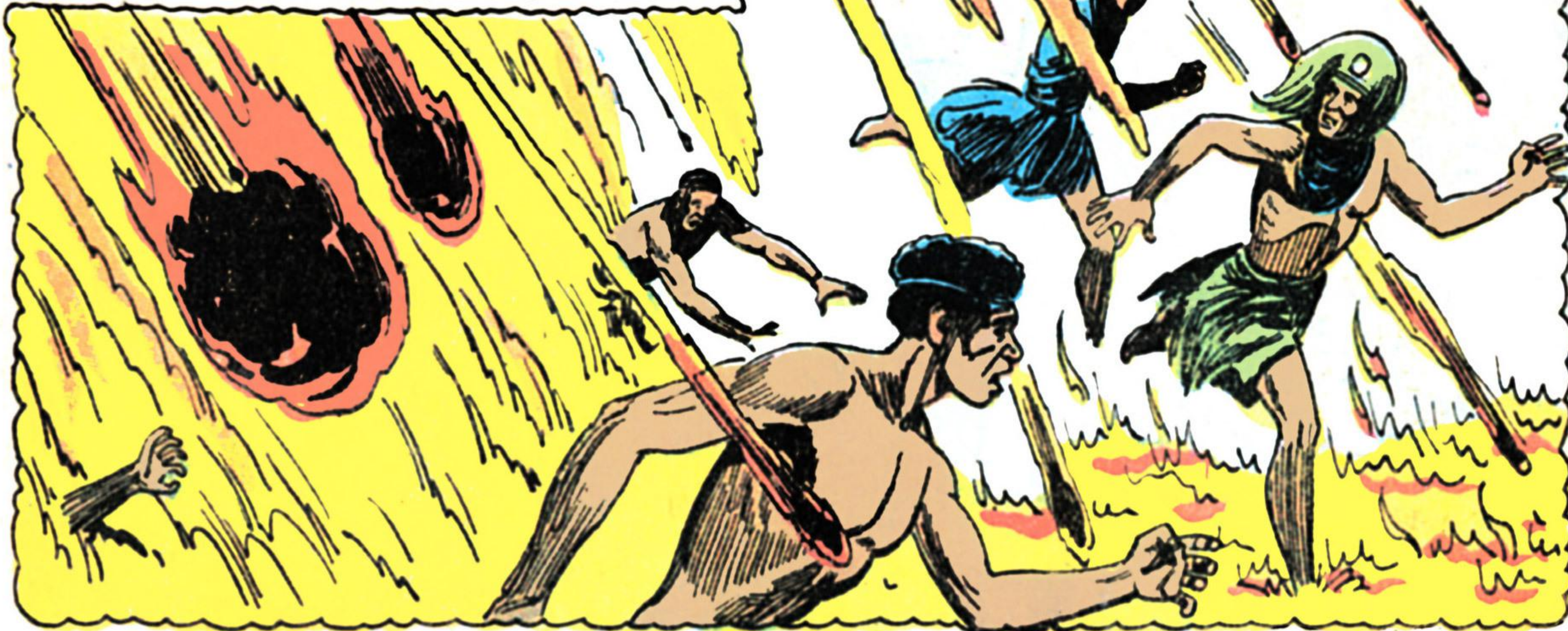
HAH-HA! THE INVADER WEAKENS... KIYANGA'S POWER IS TOO GREAT FOR HIM! HA-HA!







"AND THE WONDEROUS VILLAGE OF KİYANGA WAS BURIED FOREVER WITHIN THE CRUMBLING MOUNTAIN..."

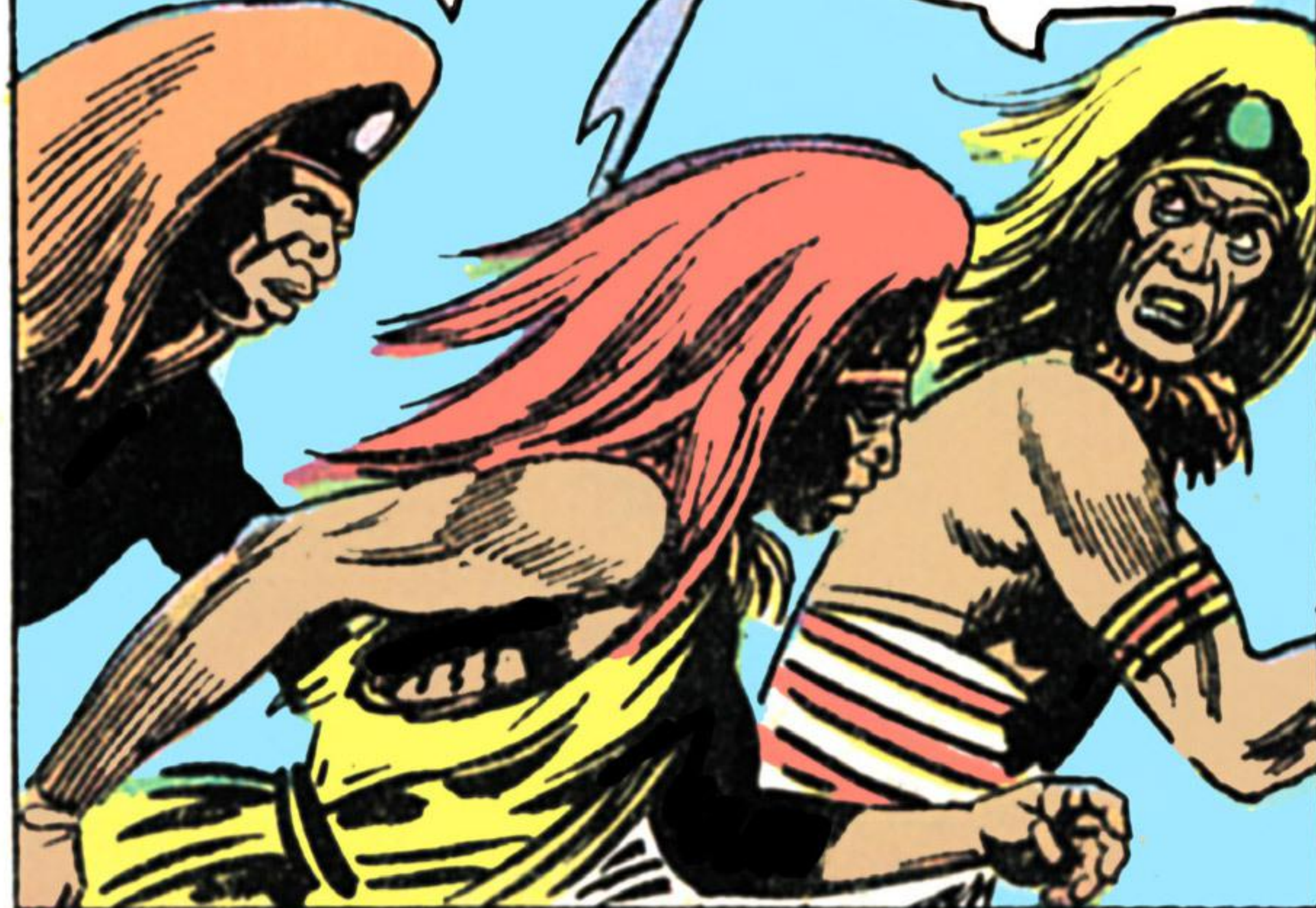


NOW, KİYANGA'S SPIRIT STIRS THE MIGHTY HILL WITH WRATH AGAIN—FOR HE CAN NOT REST IN PEACE KNOWING THAT YOU ARE BEING TRICKED AND BETRAYED BY AN *IMPOSTER* PHANTOM!



TULUCK HAS SPOKEN! *DESTROY* THE PHANTOM PRETENDER!

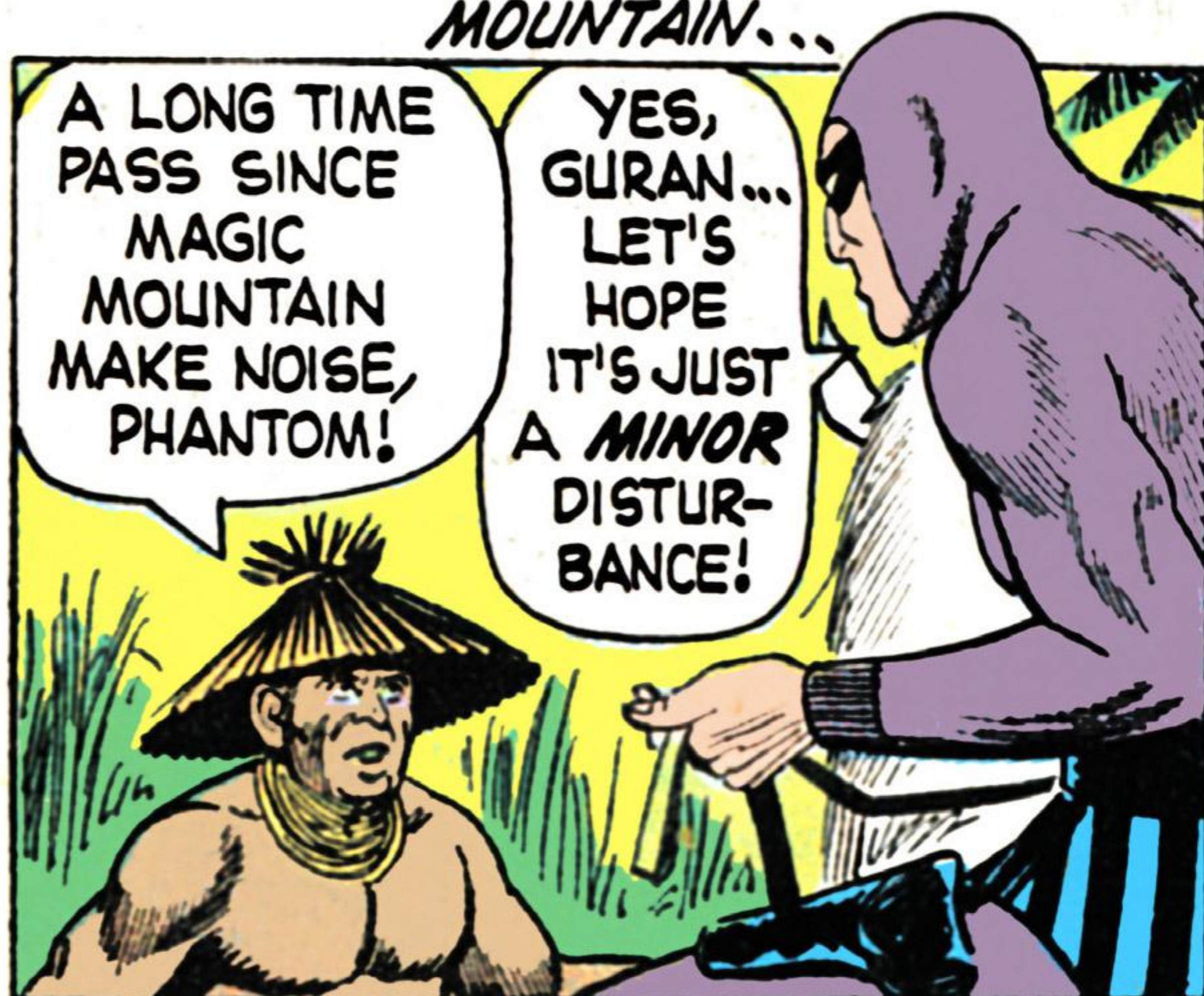
THE SPIRIT OF KİYANGA MUST HAVE *PEACE!*



MEANWHILE, OUR PHANTOM IS DISTURBED BY THE THUNDERING VOLCANIC MOUNTAIN...

A LONG TIME PASS SINCE MAGIC MOUNTAIN MAKE NOISE, PHANTOM!

YES, GURAN... LET'S HOPE IT'S JUST A *MINOR* DISTURBANCE!



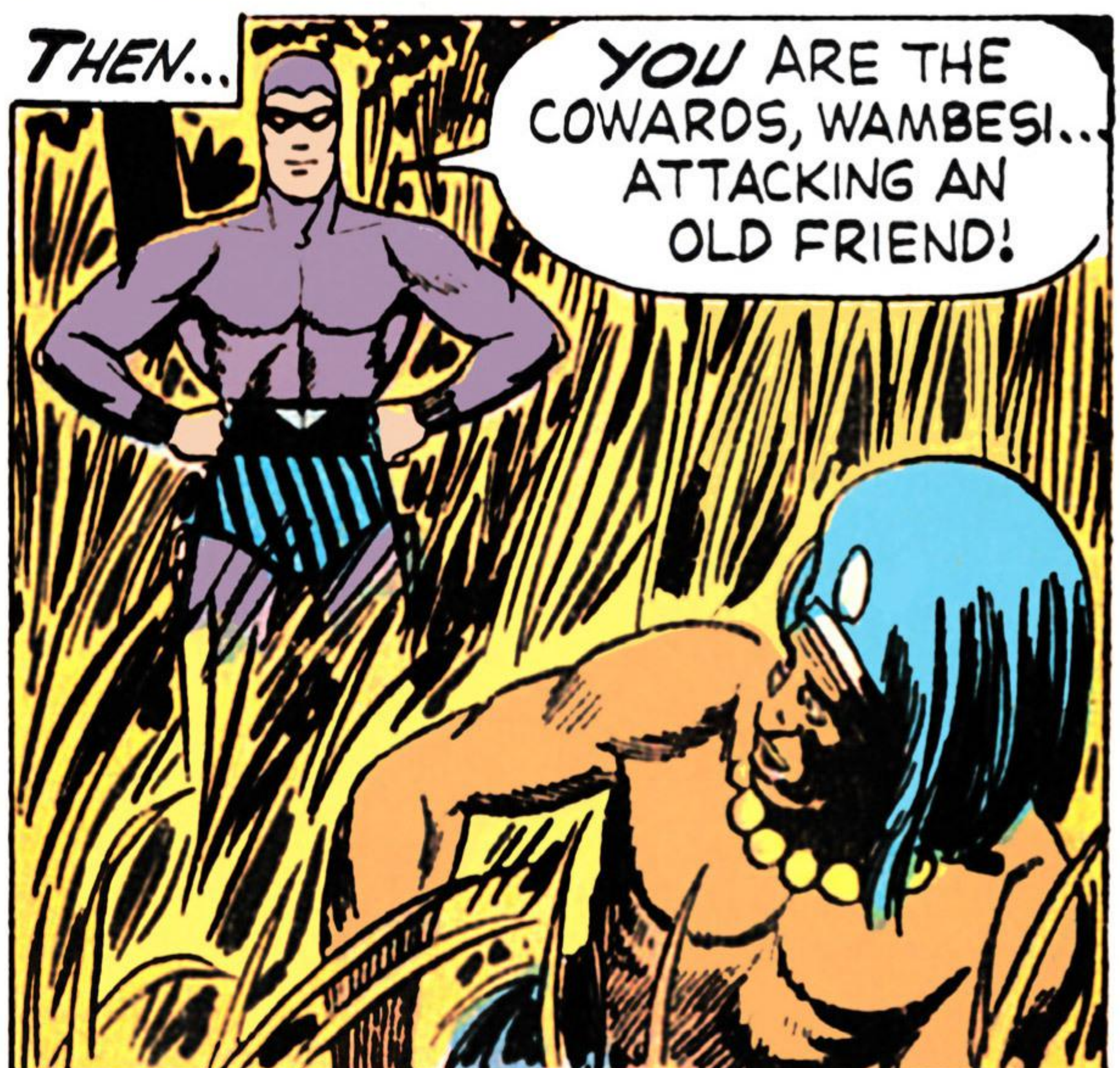
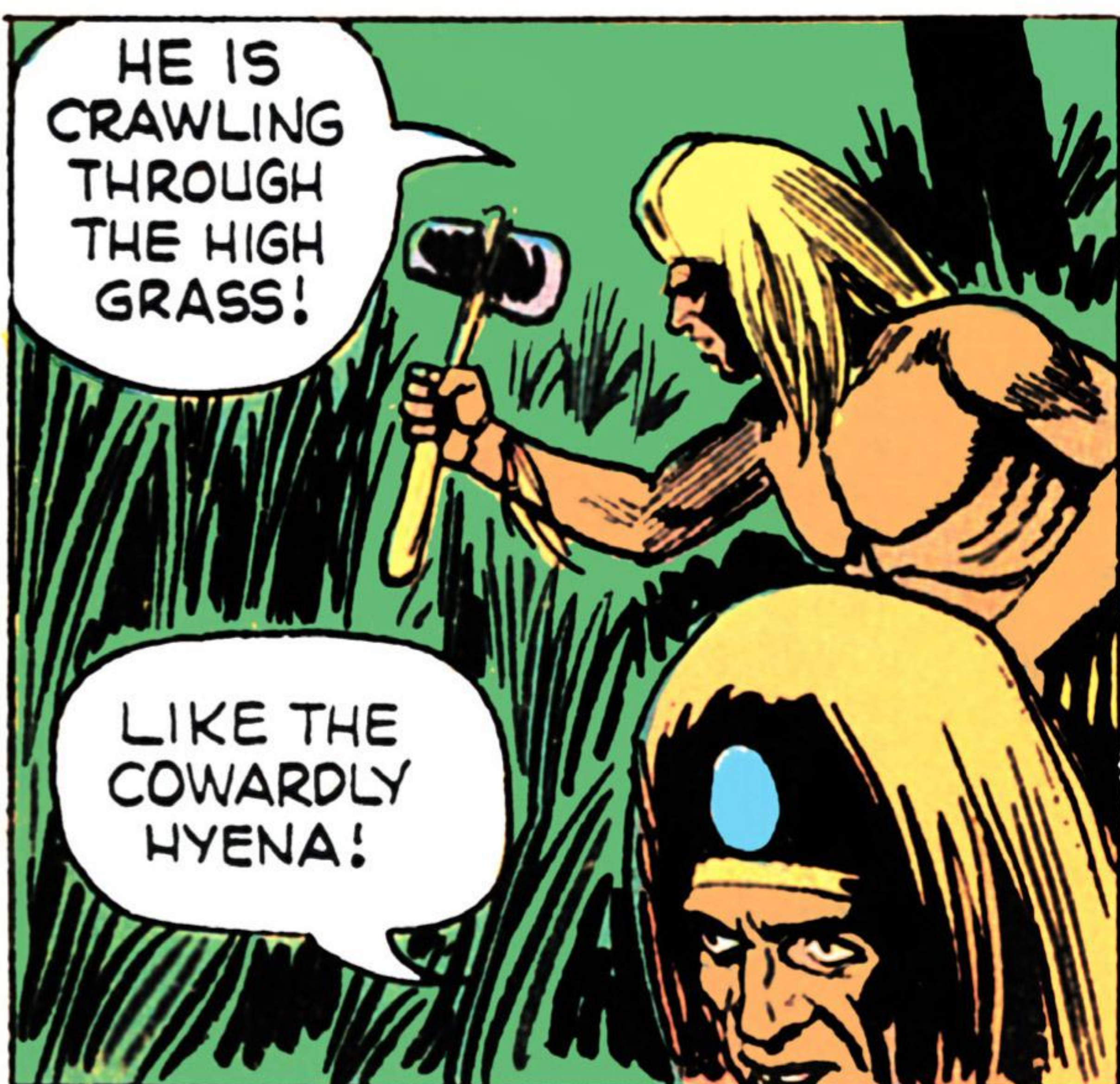
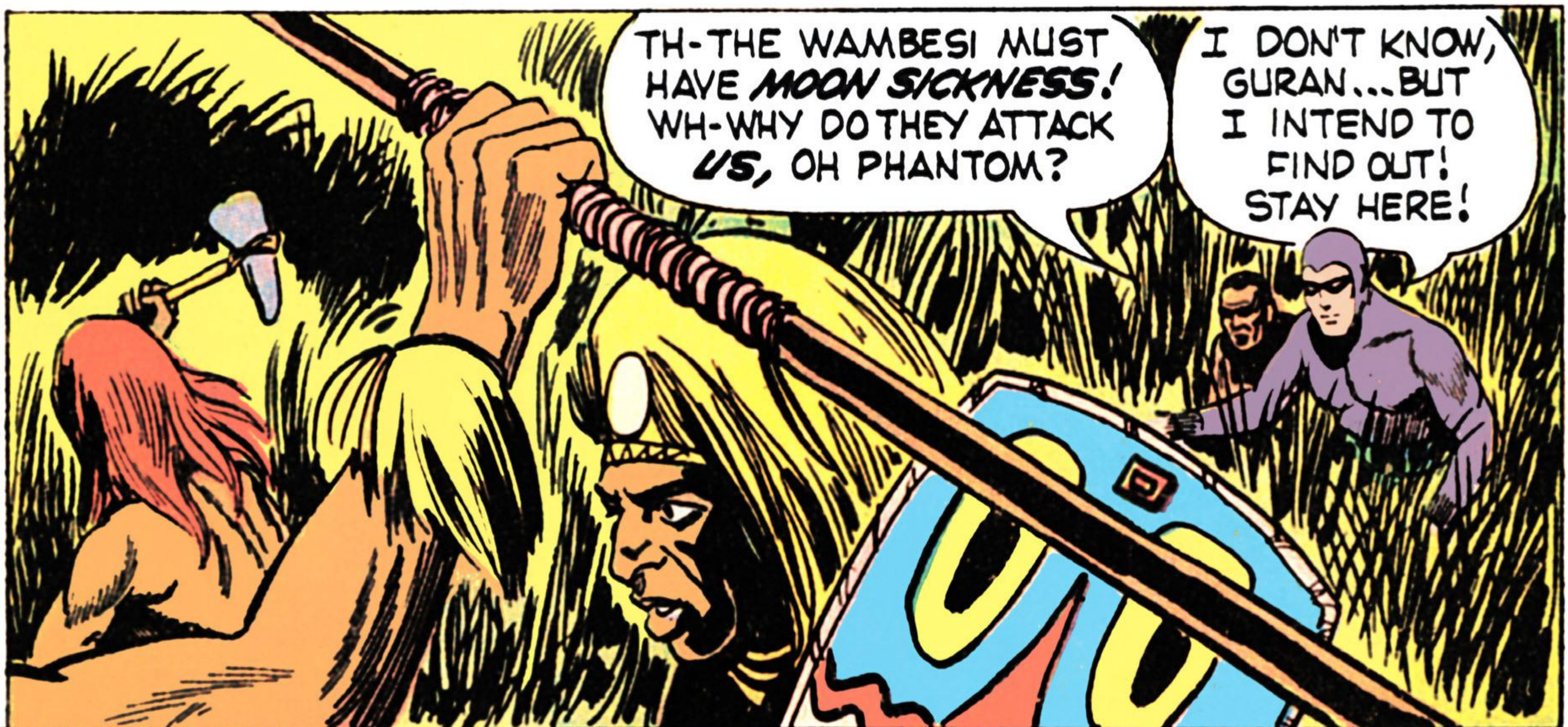
LOOK, GURAN—OUR WAMBESI FRIENDS!

THE EVIL FALSE PHANTOM!

KILL HIM!









THE PHANTOM  
SWINGS INTO  
ACTION...

HAVE YOU SOLD  
YOUR SERVICES  
TO ENEMIES OF  
THE PHANTOM?



...OR HAS SOME JUNGLE  
SICKNESS TWISTED YOUR  
BRAINS?



**SPEAK UP!**  
WHY DO YOU TRY  
TO DO THE  
IMPOSSIBLE?  
WHY DO YOU WISH  
TO KILL THE  
**GHOST WHO  
WALKS?**

Y-YOU ARE A  
**FALSE  
PHANTOM...**  
TULUCK TOLD  
US **TRUE**  
STORY OF  
**MAGIC  
MOUNTAIN!**



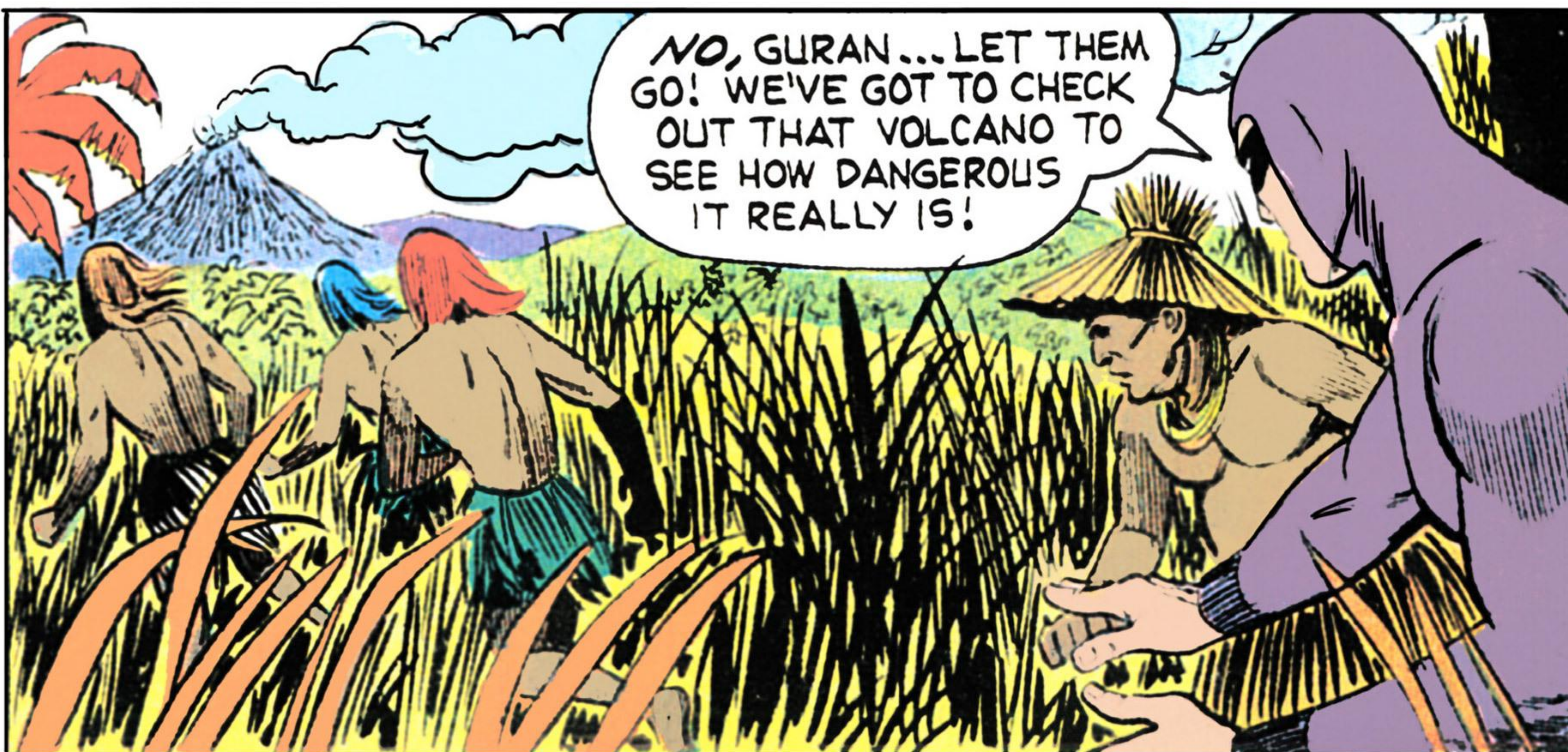
**REAL PHANTOM DEAD! SOON YOUR  
EVIL WILL BE DESTROYED, TULUCK  
SAY!**

**TULUCK...THE WAMBESI  
WITCH DOCTOR...SO HE'S  
BEHIND THIS...**

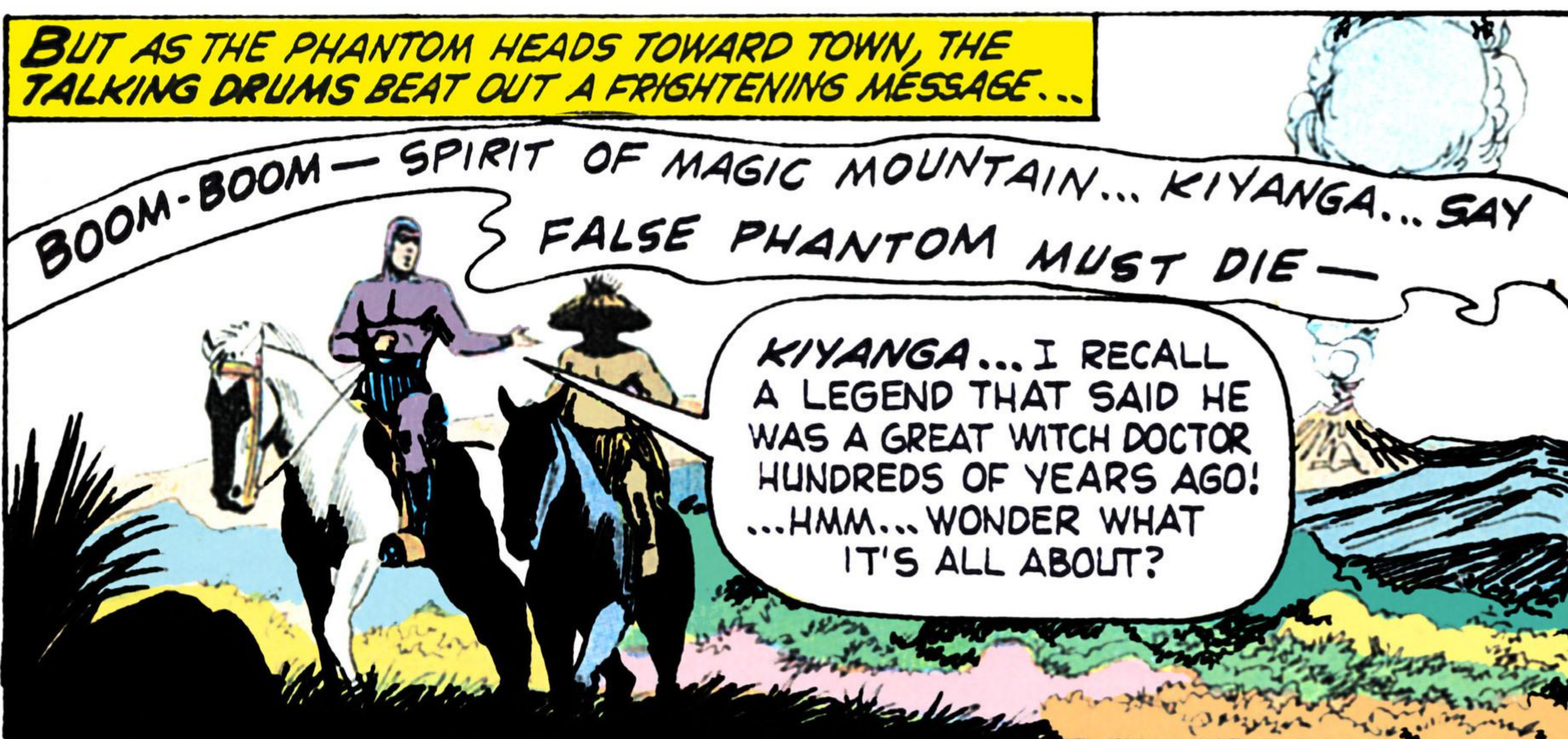
**I'LL FIX  
THEM!**



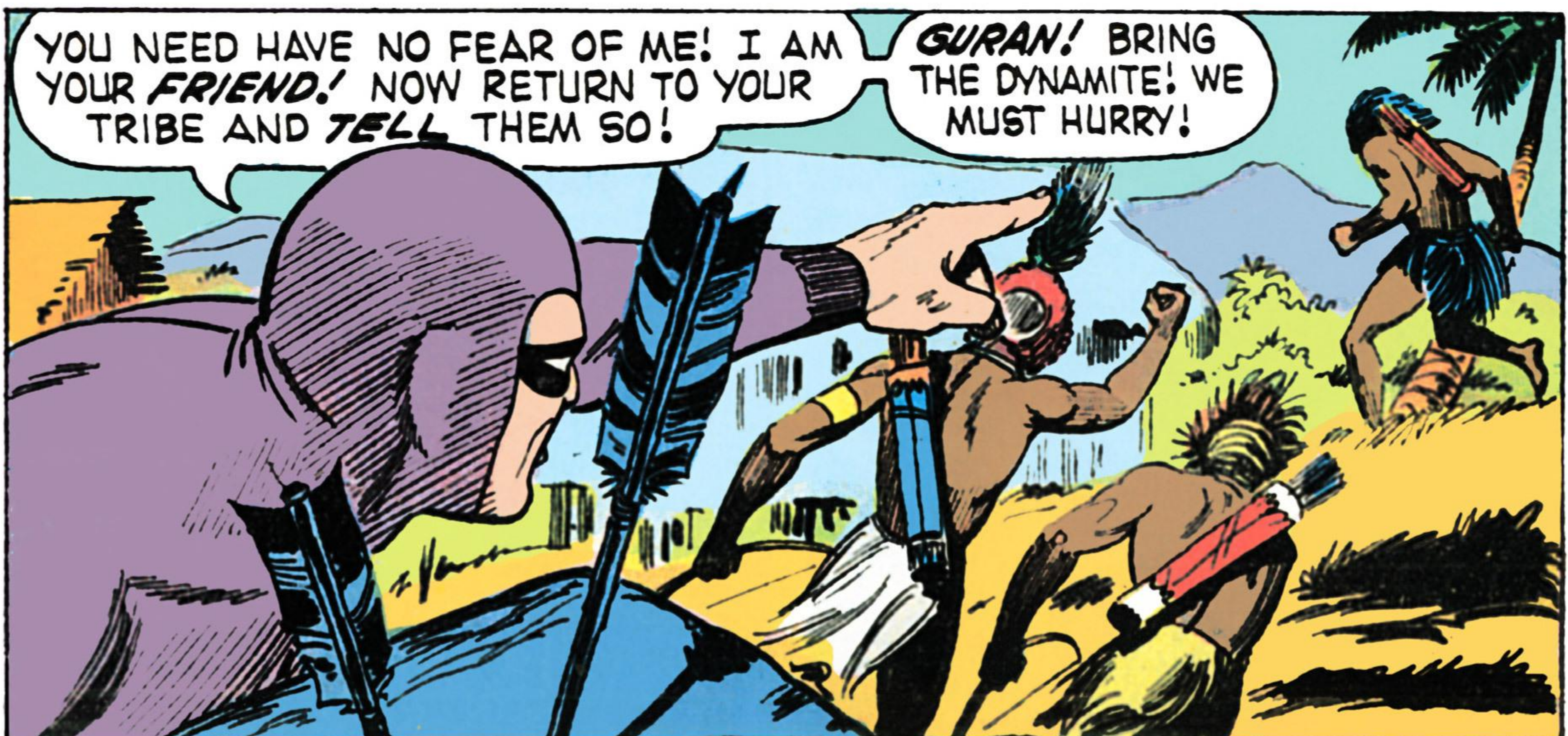
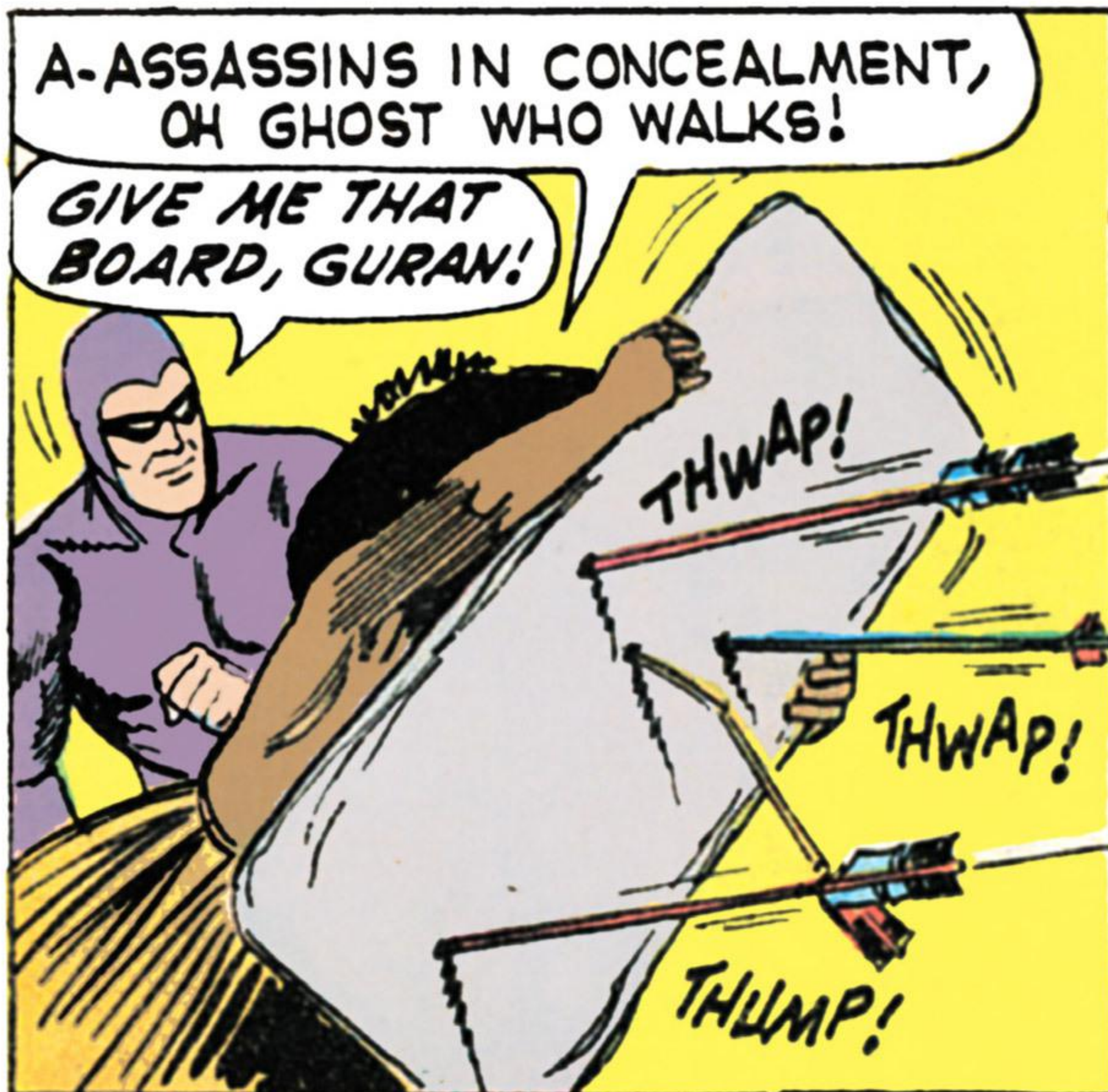
**NO, GURAN... LET THEM  
GO! WE'VE GOT TO CHECK  
OUT THAT VOLCANO TO  
SEE HOW DANGEROUS  
IT REALLY IS!**





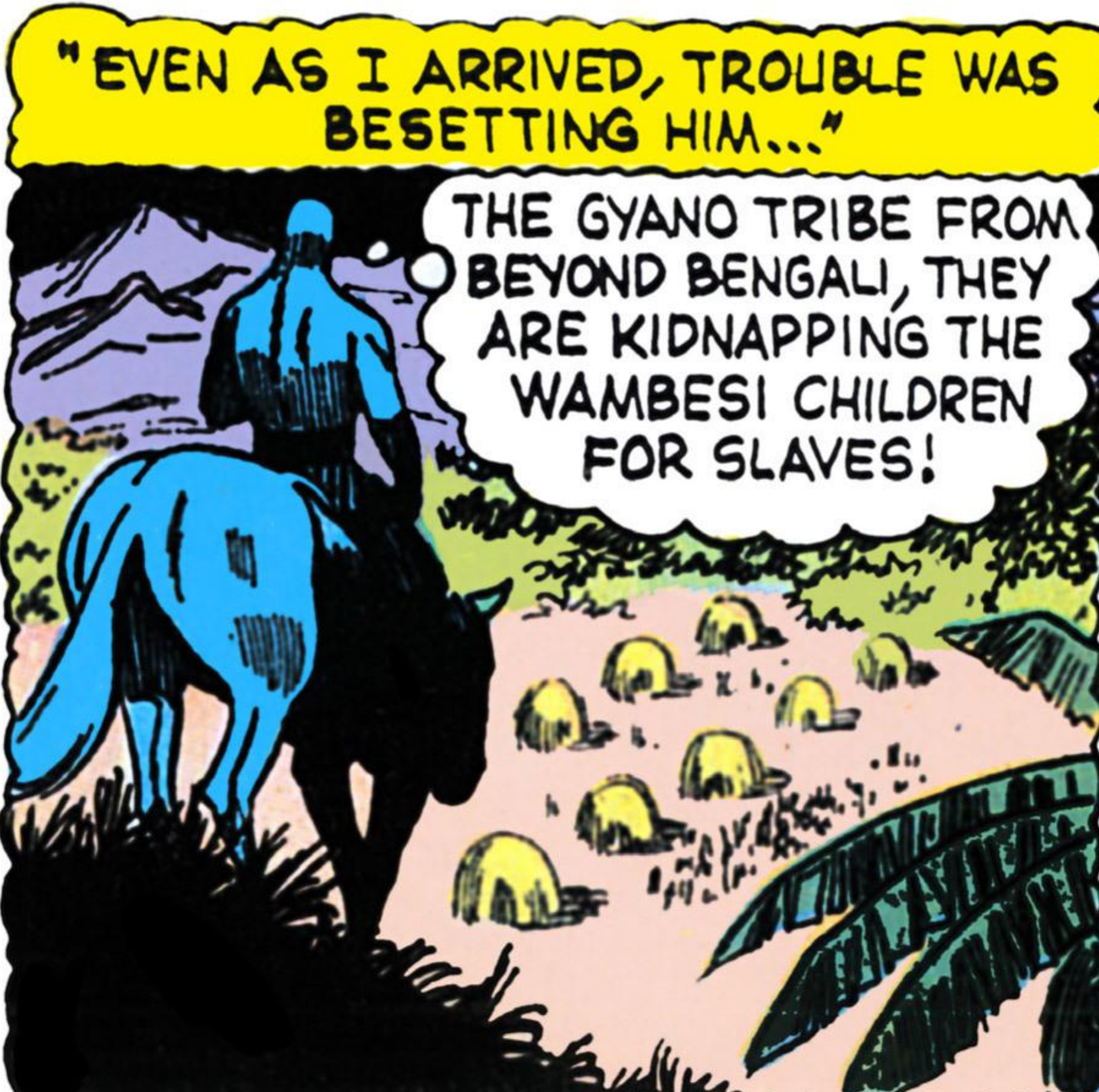
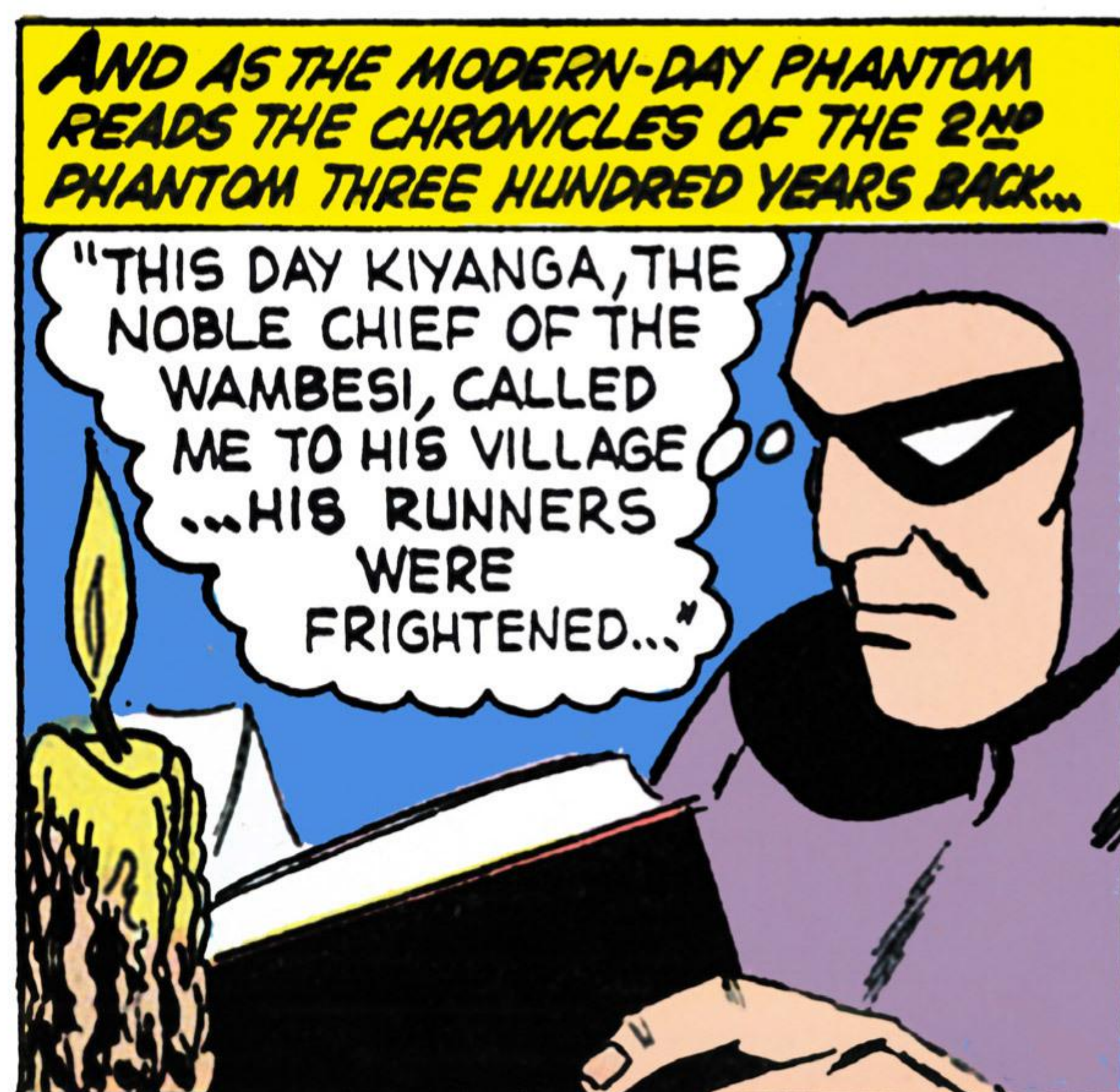
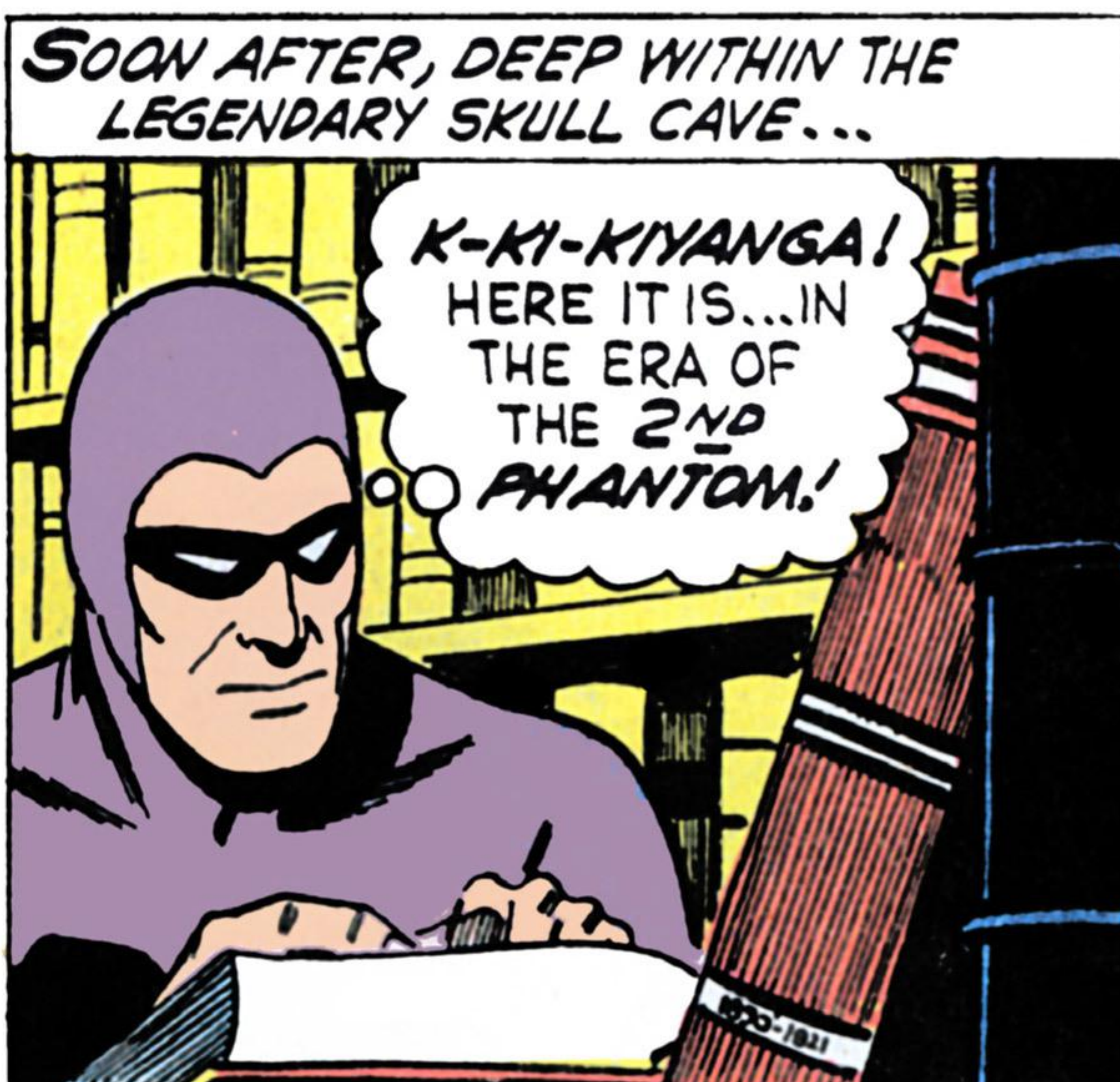
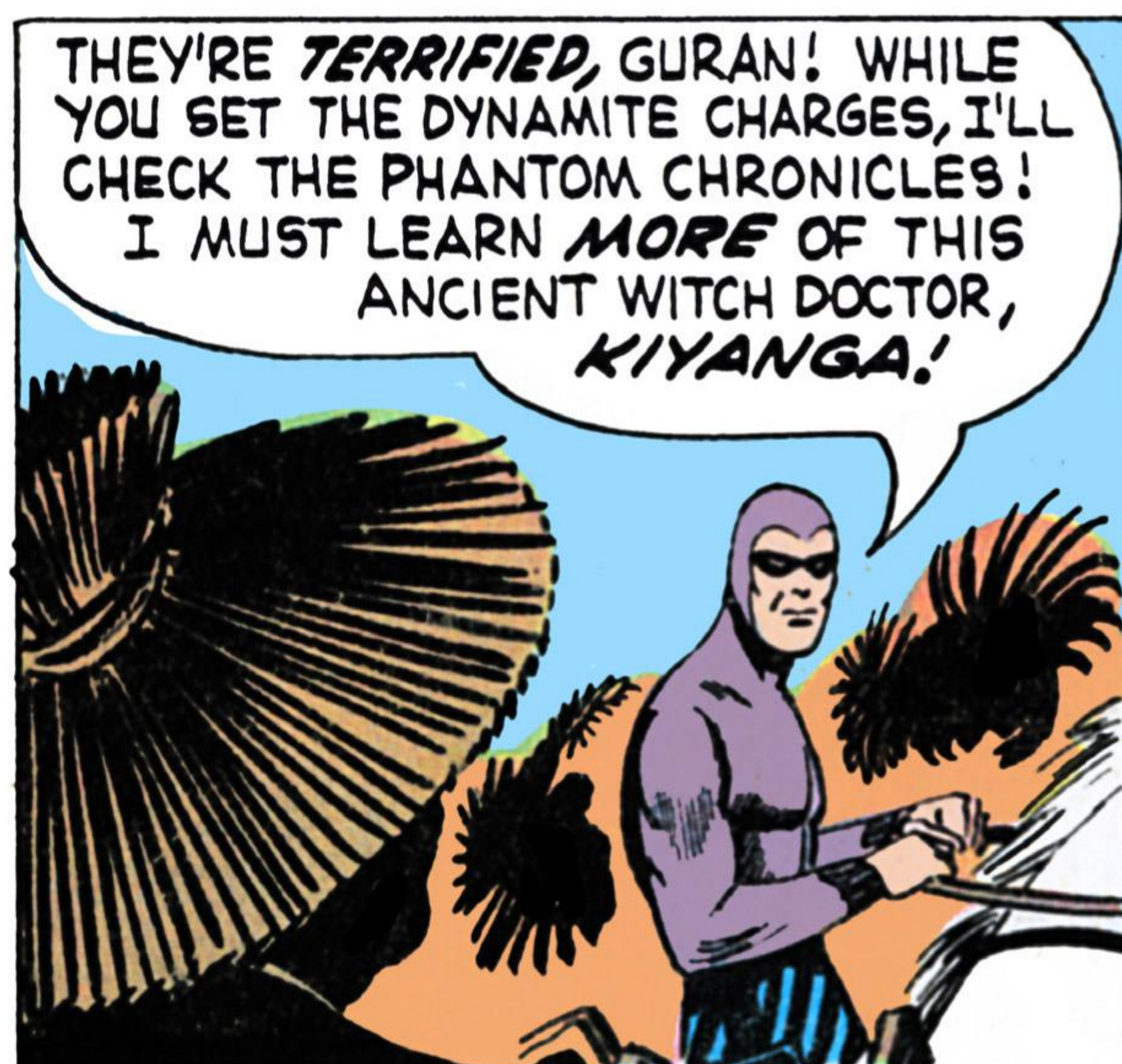








AFTER BUYING DYNAMITE, THE PHANTOM HEADS FOR THE DEEP WOODS...

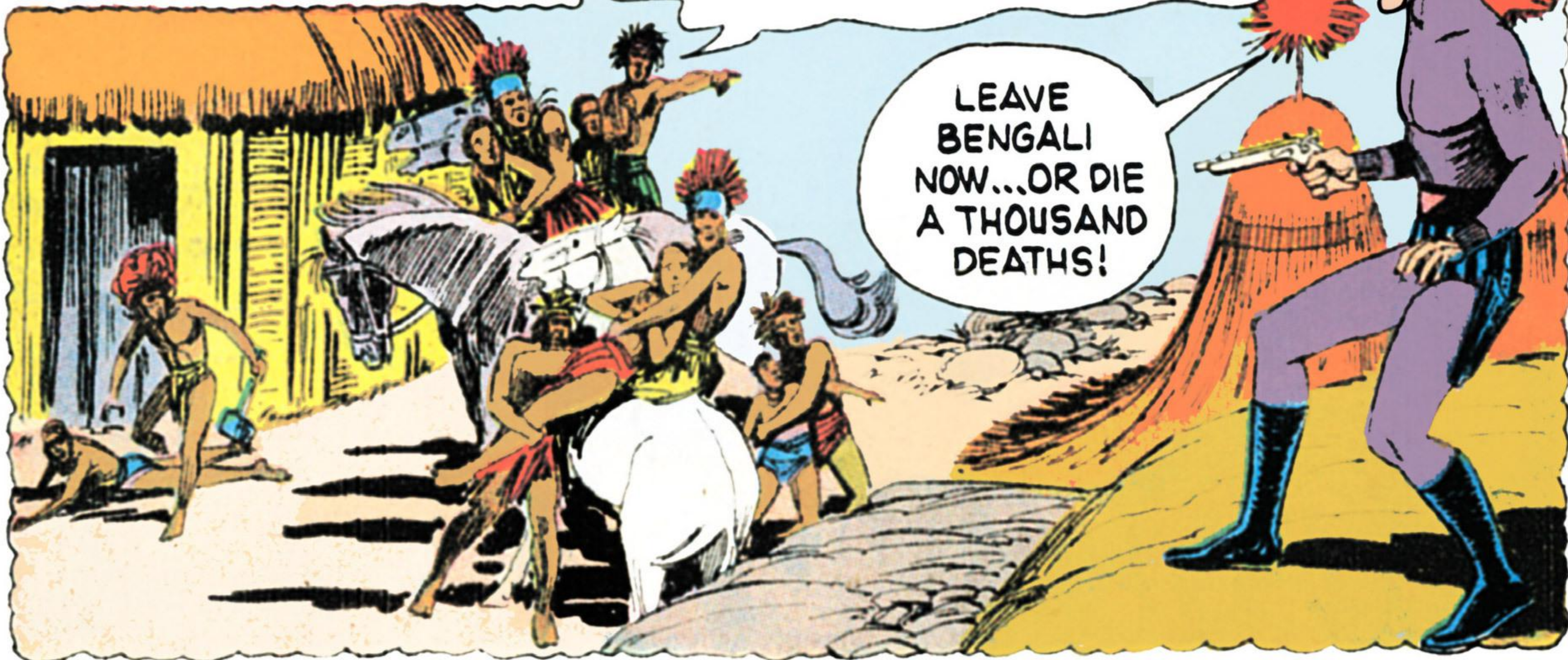




"FEAR ALONE WAS ENOUGH  
TO DISPEL THE RAIDERS..."

YIIII!! GH-GHOST WHO WALKS!  
THE ONE WHO CANNOT DIE!

LEAVE  
BENGALI  
NOW...OR DIE  
A THOUSAND  
DEATHS!



"BUT I REALIZED KIYANGA NEEDED A  
MORE PERMANENT PLAN TO KEEP  
TROUBLE AWAY..."

YOU HAVE SAVED US, PHANTOM...BUT  
OTHERS WILL COME! MY TRIBE IS  
SMALL...UNTIL IT IS LARGE ENOUGH  
TO DEFEND ITSELF WE ARE HELPLESS  
AGAINST OUR ENEMIES!

YES, I UNDERSTAND!

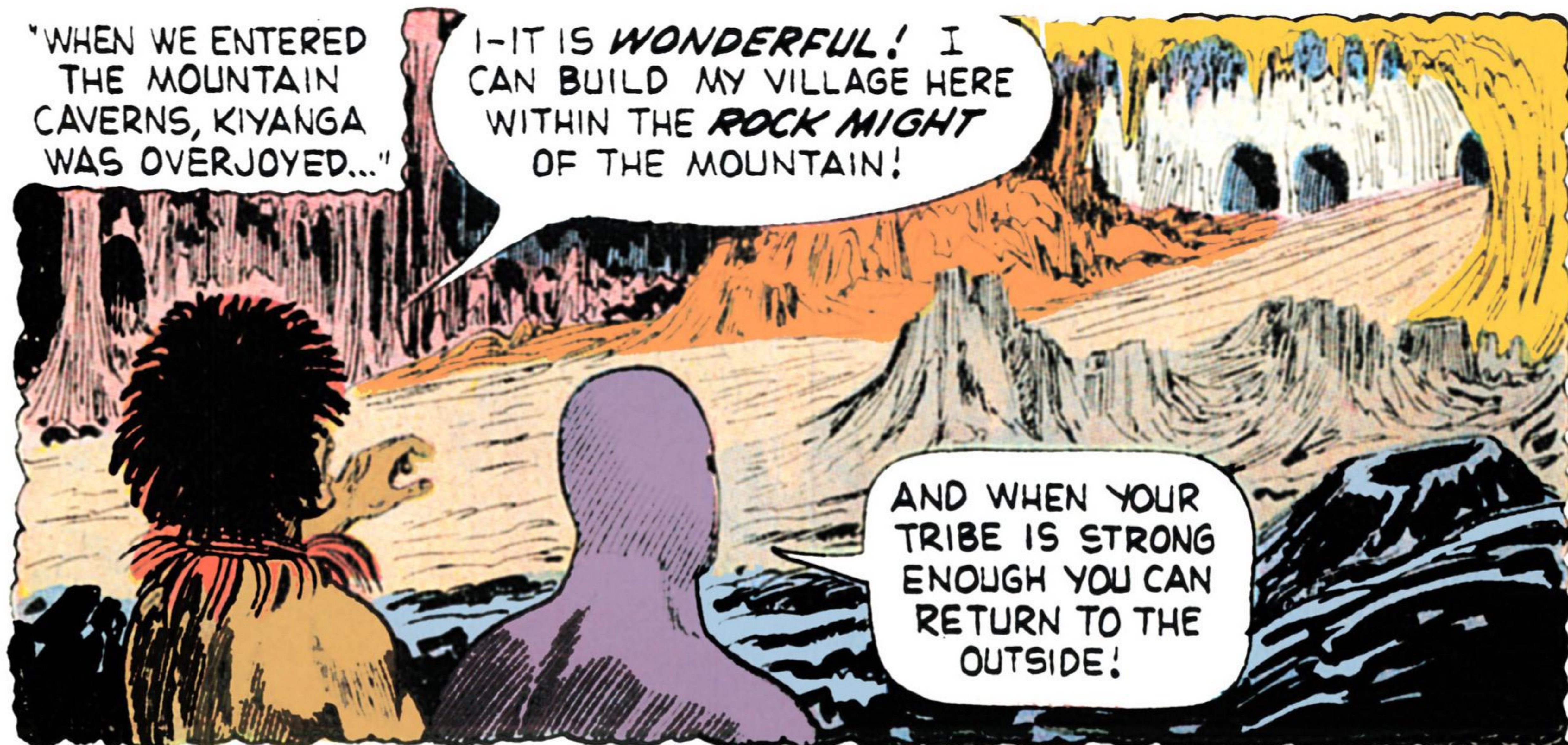


BUT I HAVE A PLAN, KIYANGA!  
DEEP WITHIN **MAGIC MOUNTAIN**  
THERE ARE VAST CHAMBERS...ROOMY  
ENOUGH FOR SEVERAL VILLAGES  
LIKE YOURS! COME... LET US  
EXPLORE THEM!



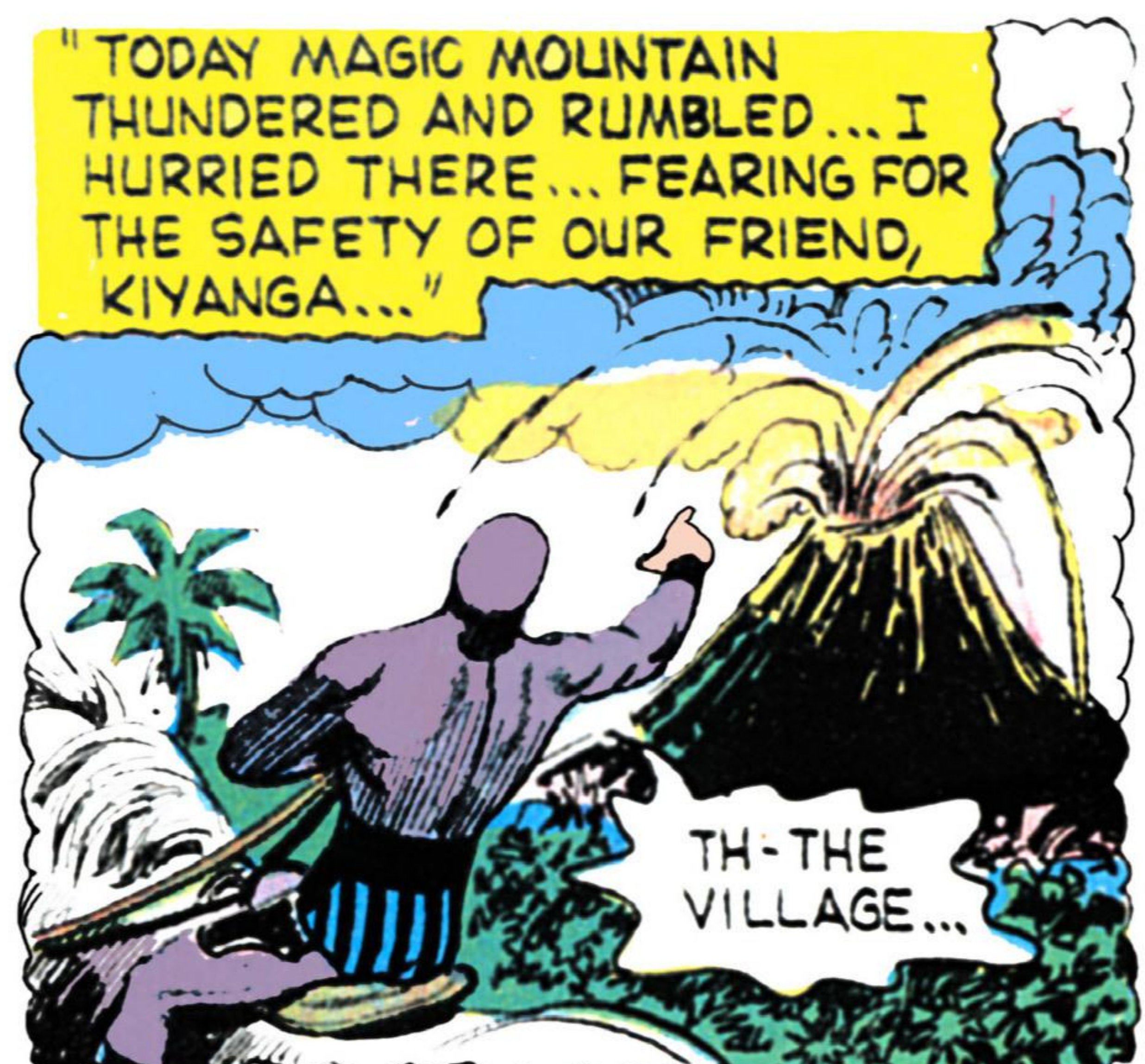
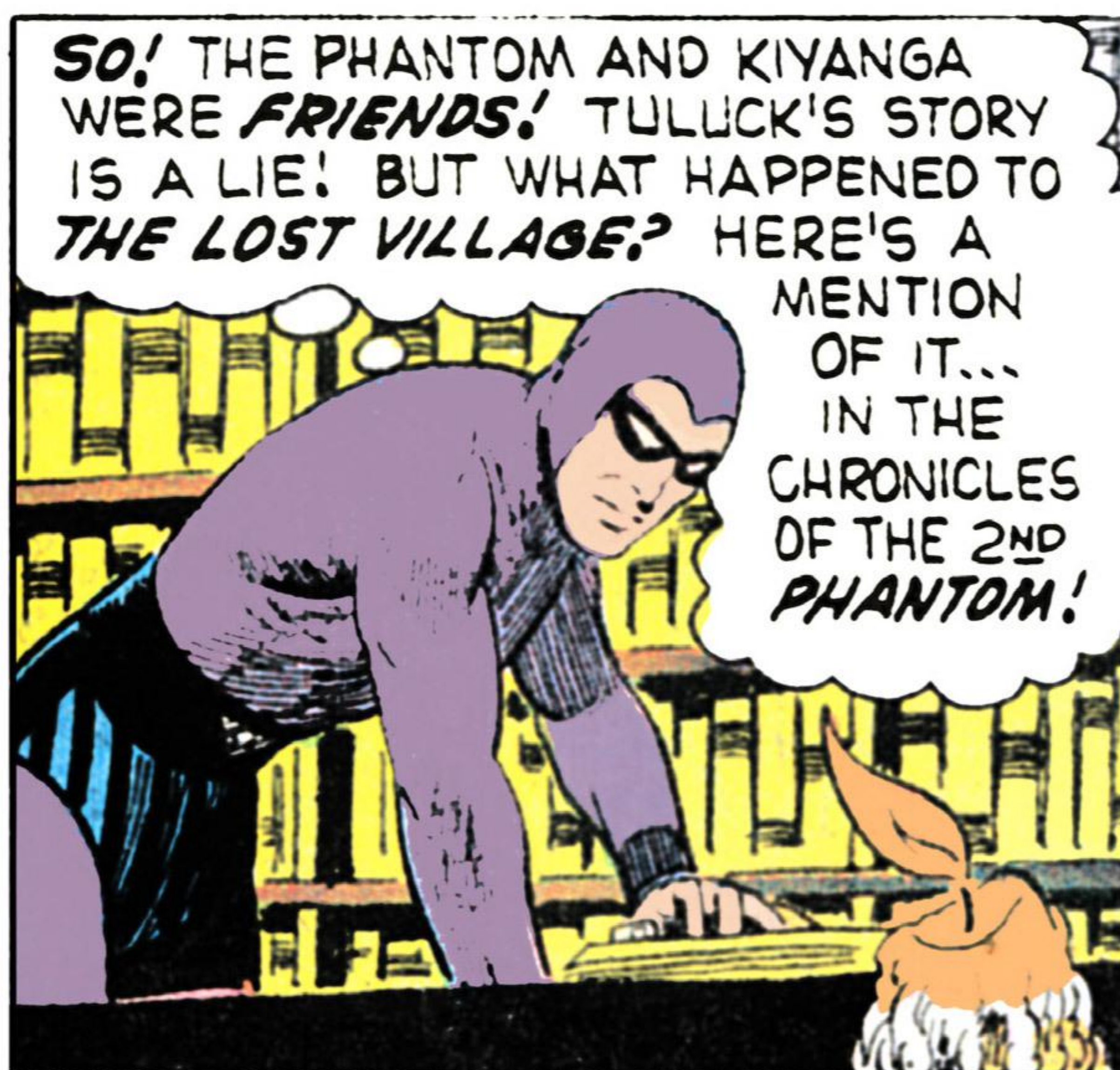
"WHEN WE ENTERED  
THE MOUNTAIN  
CAVERNS, KIYANGA  
WAS OVERJOYED..."

I-IT IS **WONDERFUL!** I  
CAN BUILD MY VILLAGE HERE  
WITHIN THE **ROCK MIGHT**  
OF THE MOUNTAIN!



AND WHEN YOUR  
TRIBE IS STRONG  
ENOUGH YOU CAN  
RETURN TO THE  
OUTSIDE!





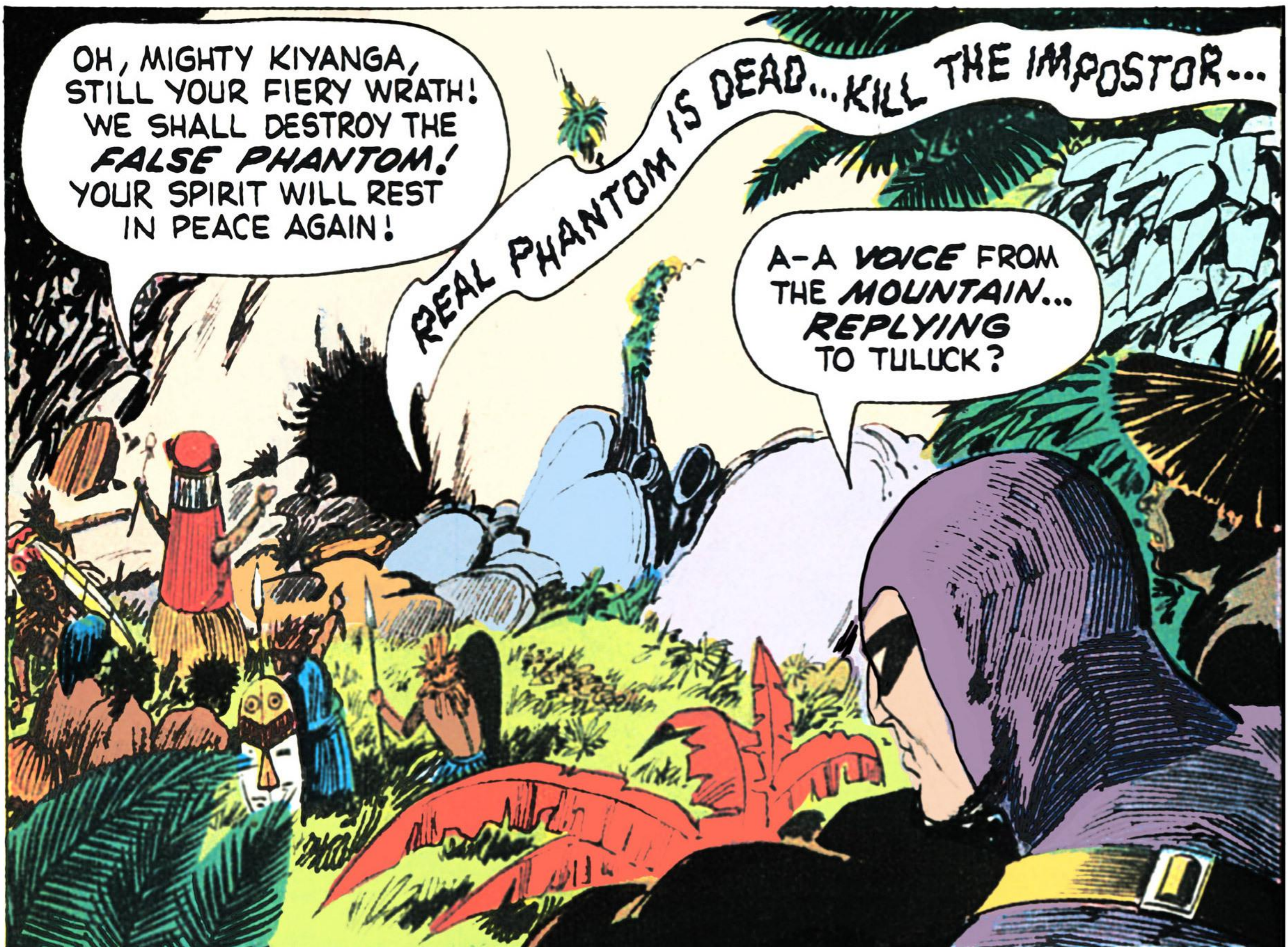


# The SECRET OF MAGIC MOUNTAIN

(PART TWO)

## VILLAGE IN THE VOLCANO

**P**REPARING TO DYNAMITE THE VOLCANO ON MAGIC MOUNTAIN, THE PHANTOM APPROACHES WITH GURAN ONLY TO FIND AN AWESOME SIGHT...



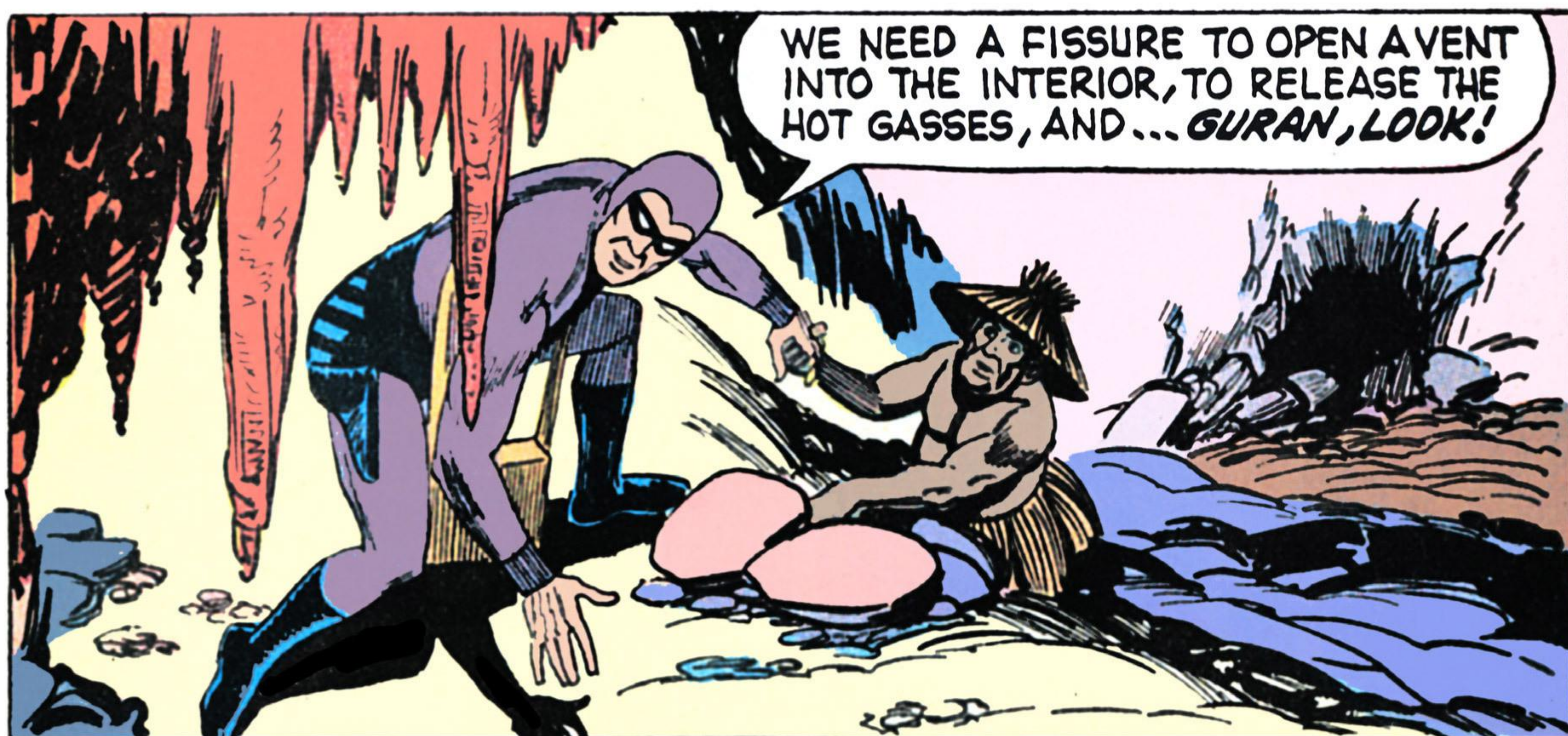




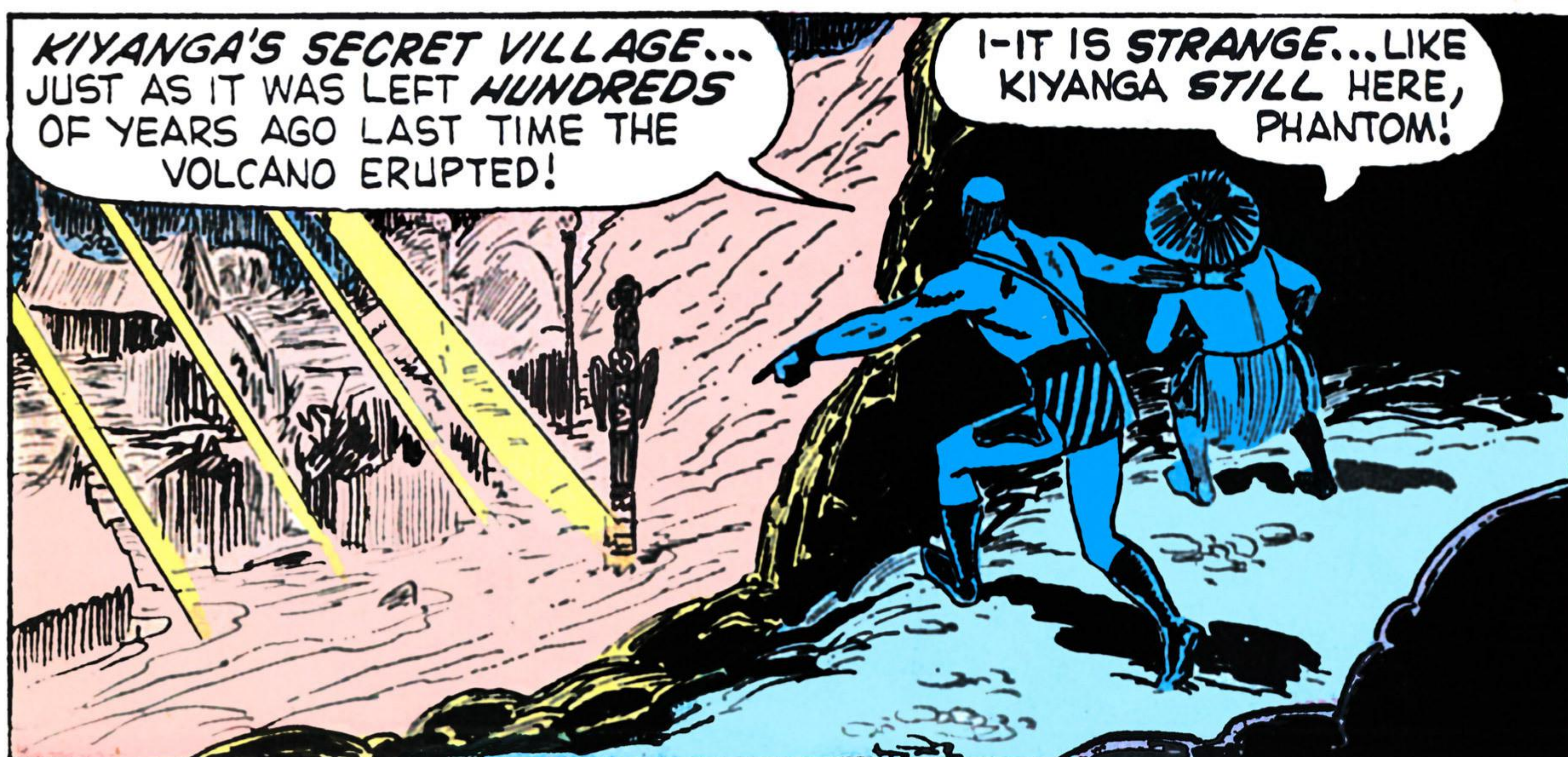




WE'LL TAKE CARE OF TULUCK *LATER!*  
RIGHT *NOW* LET'S FIND THE SPOT TO  
PLANT OUR DYNAMITE BEFORE THIS  
VOLCANO *BLOWS* MAGIC MOUNTAIN  
*APART!*



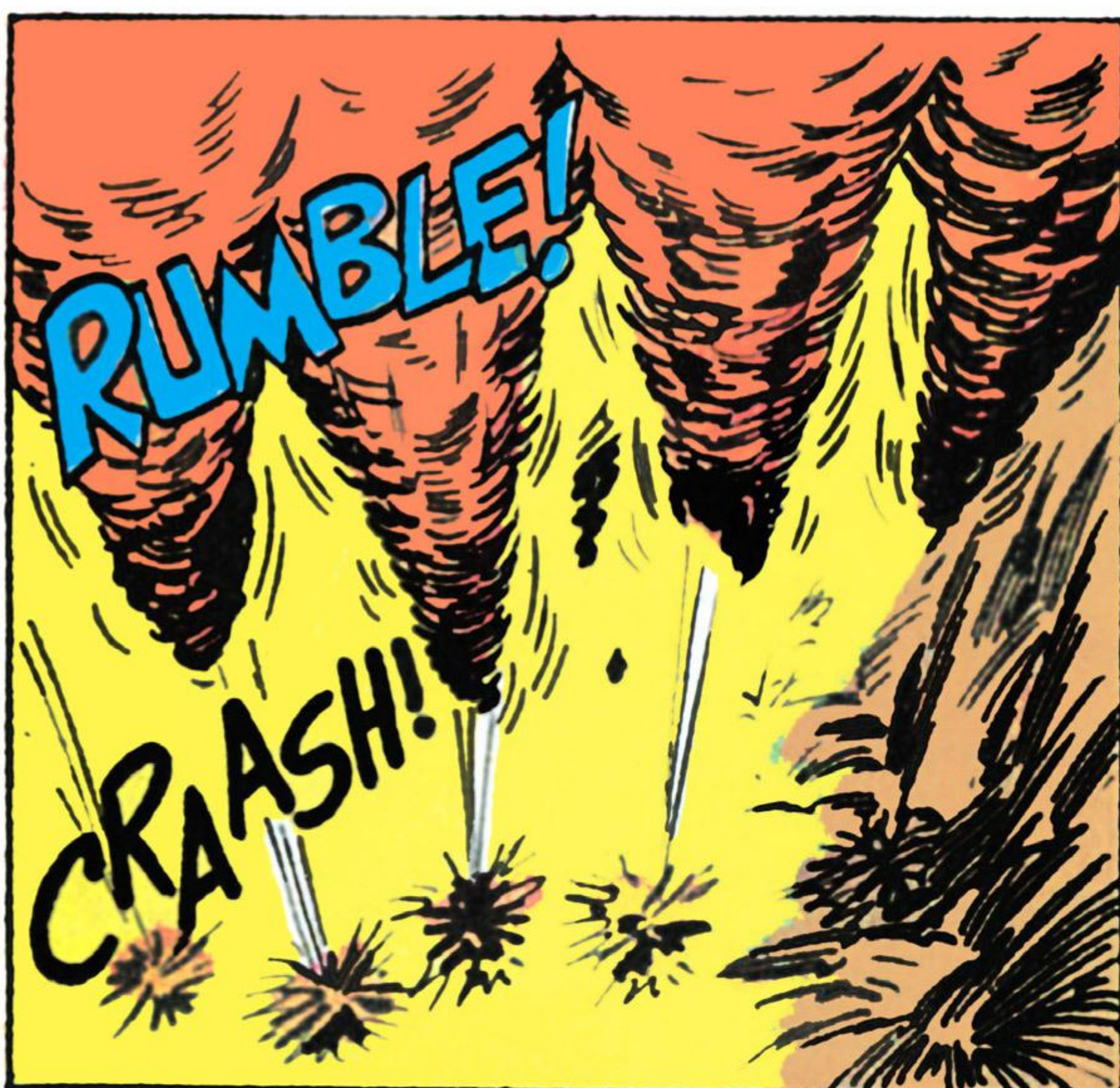
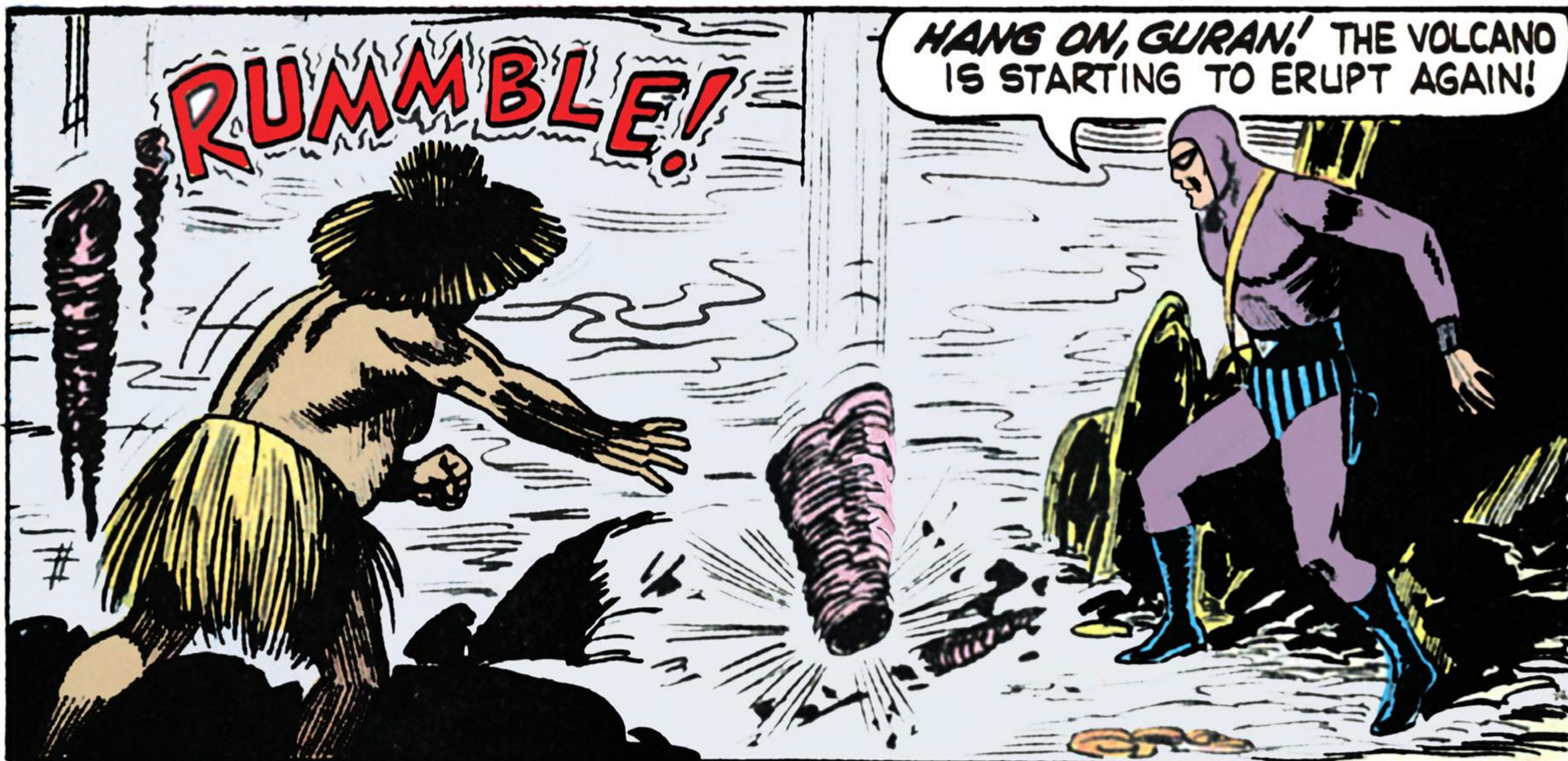
WE NEED A FISSURE TO OPEN A VENT  
INTO THE INTERIOR, TO RELEASE THE  
HOT GASSES, AND... *GURAN*, LOOK!



*KIYANGA'S SECRET VILLAGE...*  
JUST AS IT WAS LEFT *HUNDREDS*  
OF YEARS AGO LAST TIME THE  
VOLCANO ERUPTED!

I-IT IS *STRANGE...* LIKE  
*KIYANGA* *STILL* HERE,  
PHANTOM!







*IN A SHORT TIME...*



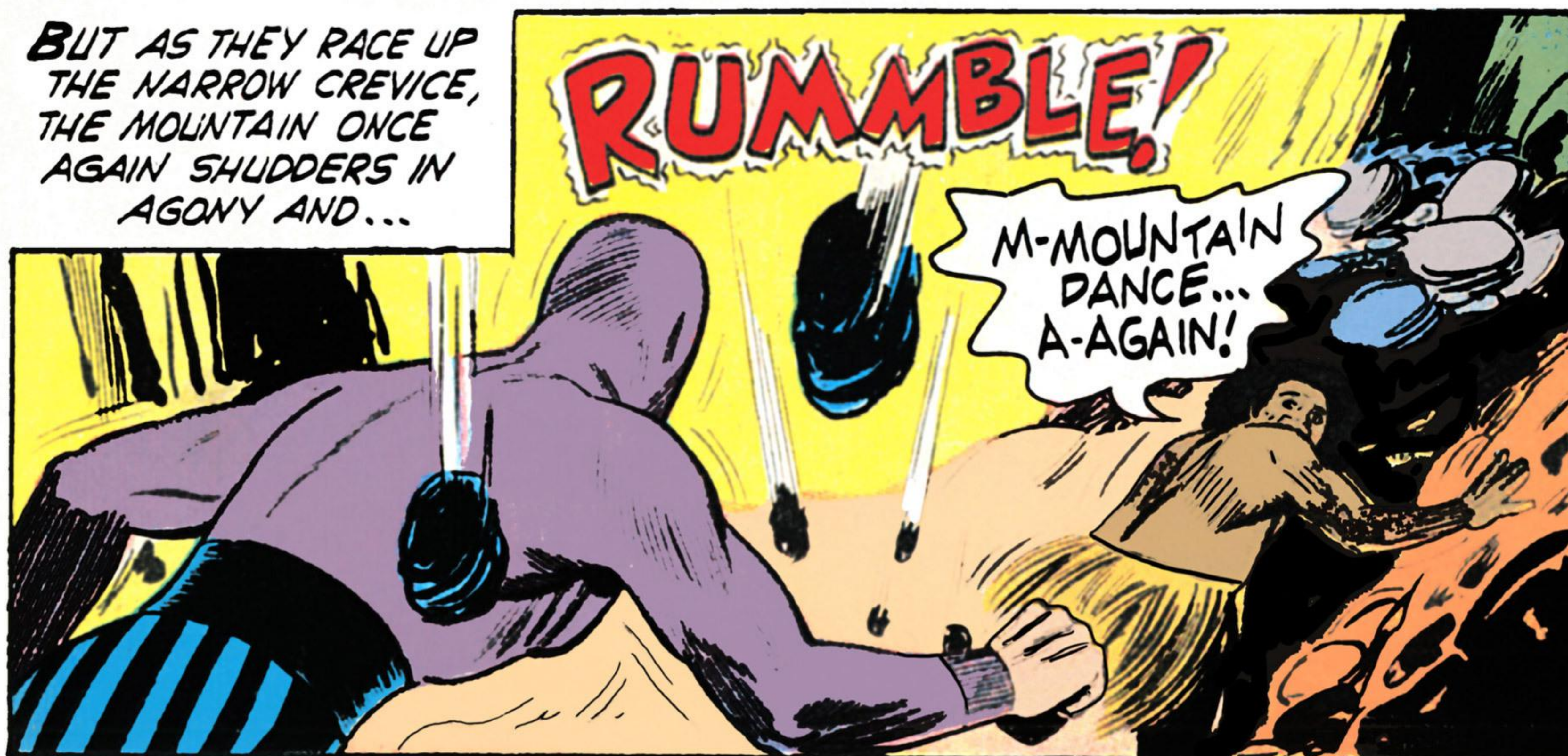
*DEEP INTO THE MOUNTAIN'S HEART THEY DESCEND...*



*QUICKLY, THE PHANTOM GETS TO WORK...*

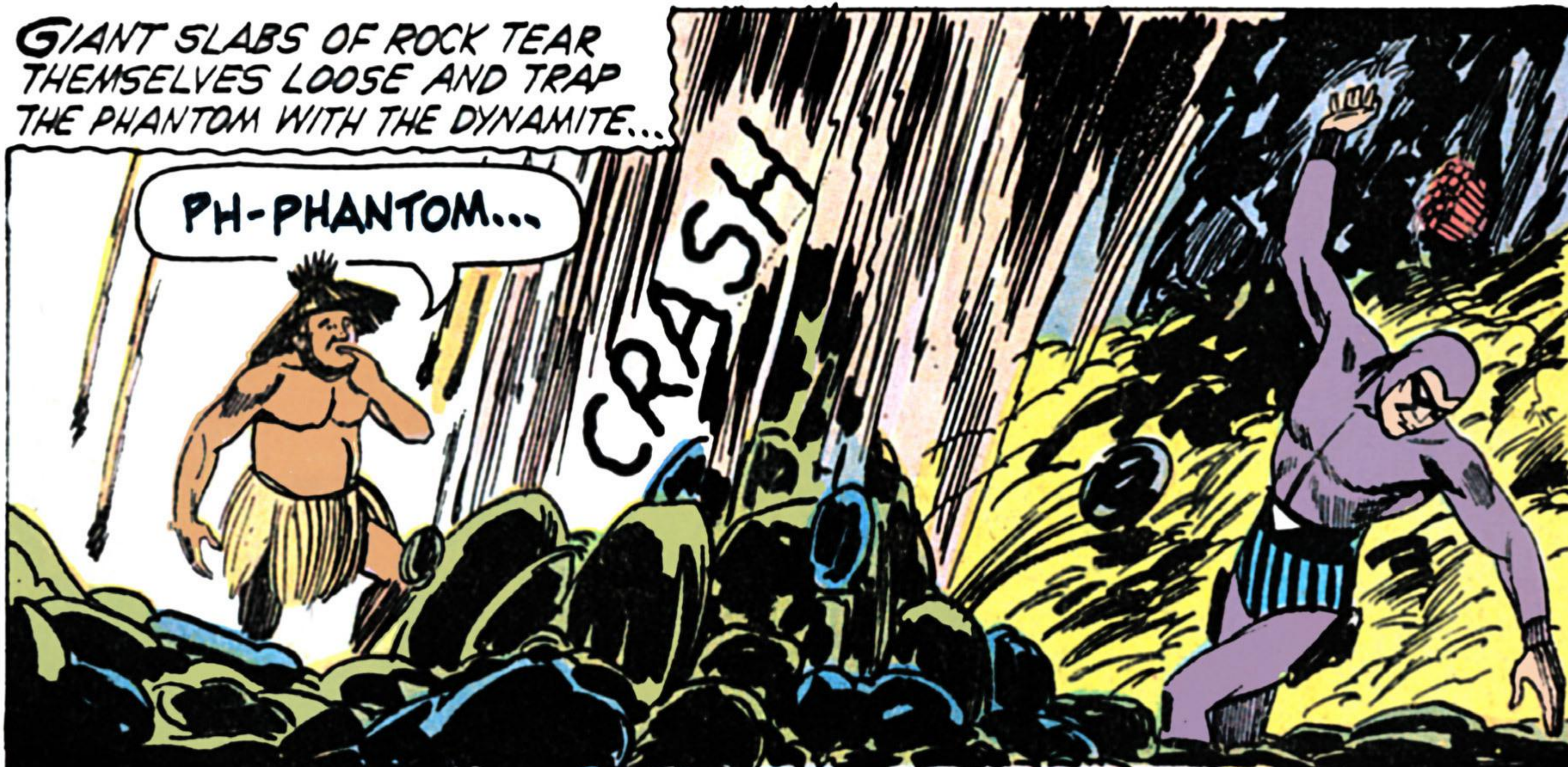


*BUT AS THEY RACE UP THE NARROW CREVICE, THE MOUNTAIN ONCE AGAIN SHUDDERS IN AGONY AND...*





GIANT SLABS OF ROCK TEAR THEMSELVES LOOSE AND TRAP THE PHANTOM WITH THE DYNAMITE...



GURAN! I'M TRAPPED IN BOTH DIRECTIONS! I...CAN'T RETURN TO CUT THE FUSE... GO ON AHEAD AND SAVE YOURSELF!



IT'S HOPELESS, GURAN! IN JUST A FEW MINUTES THE DYNAMITE WILL EXPLODE AND THE TUNNEL WITH IT!

I WILL TRY TO DIG YOU FREE!



I COMMAND YOU TO LEAVE, GURAN! TIME IS RUNNING OUT!



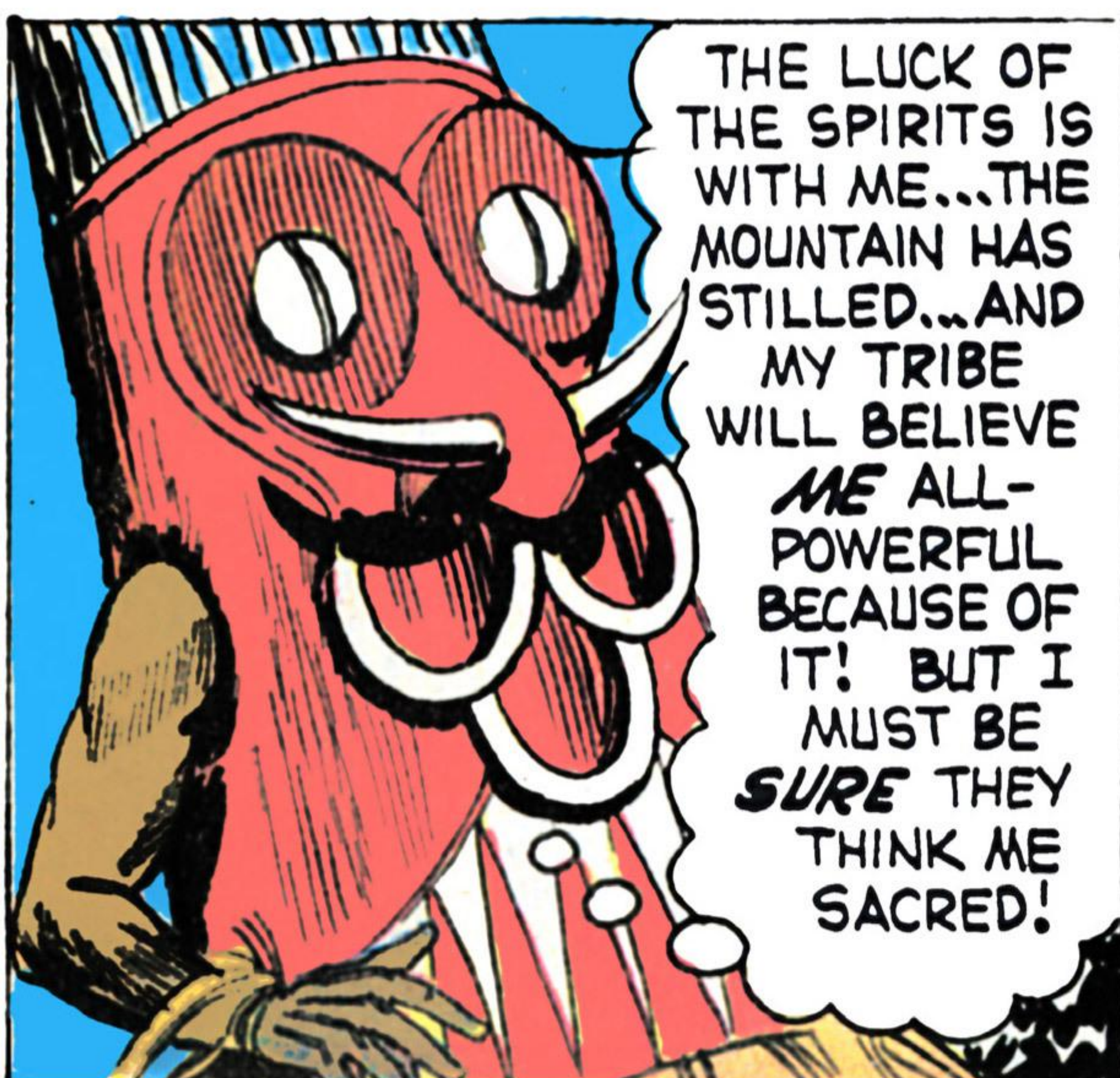
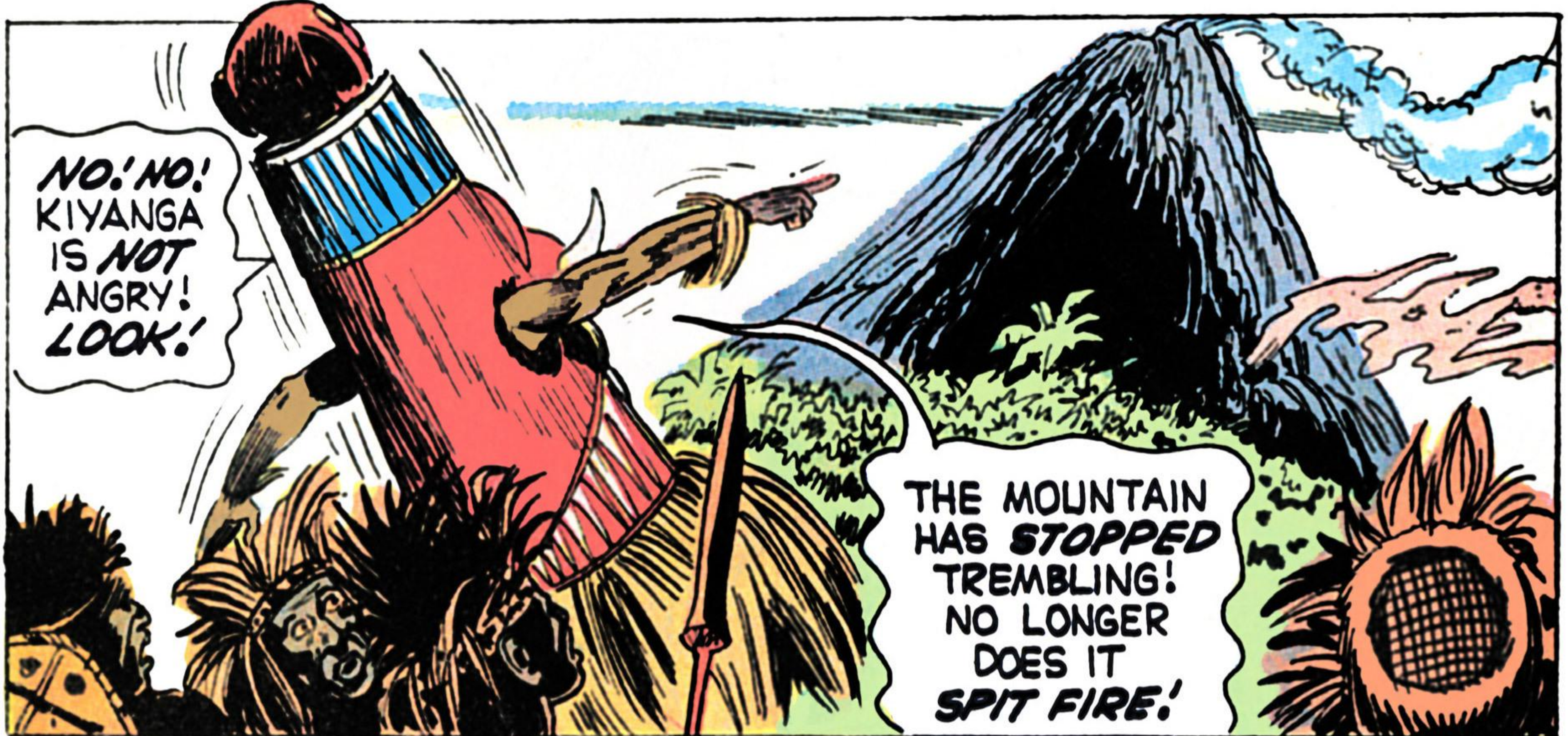
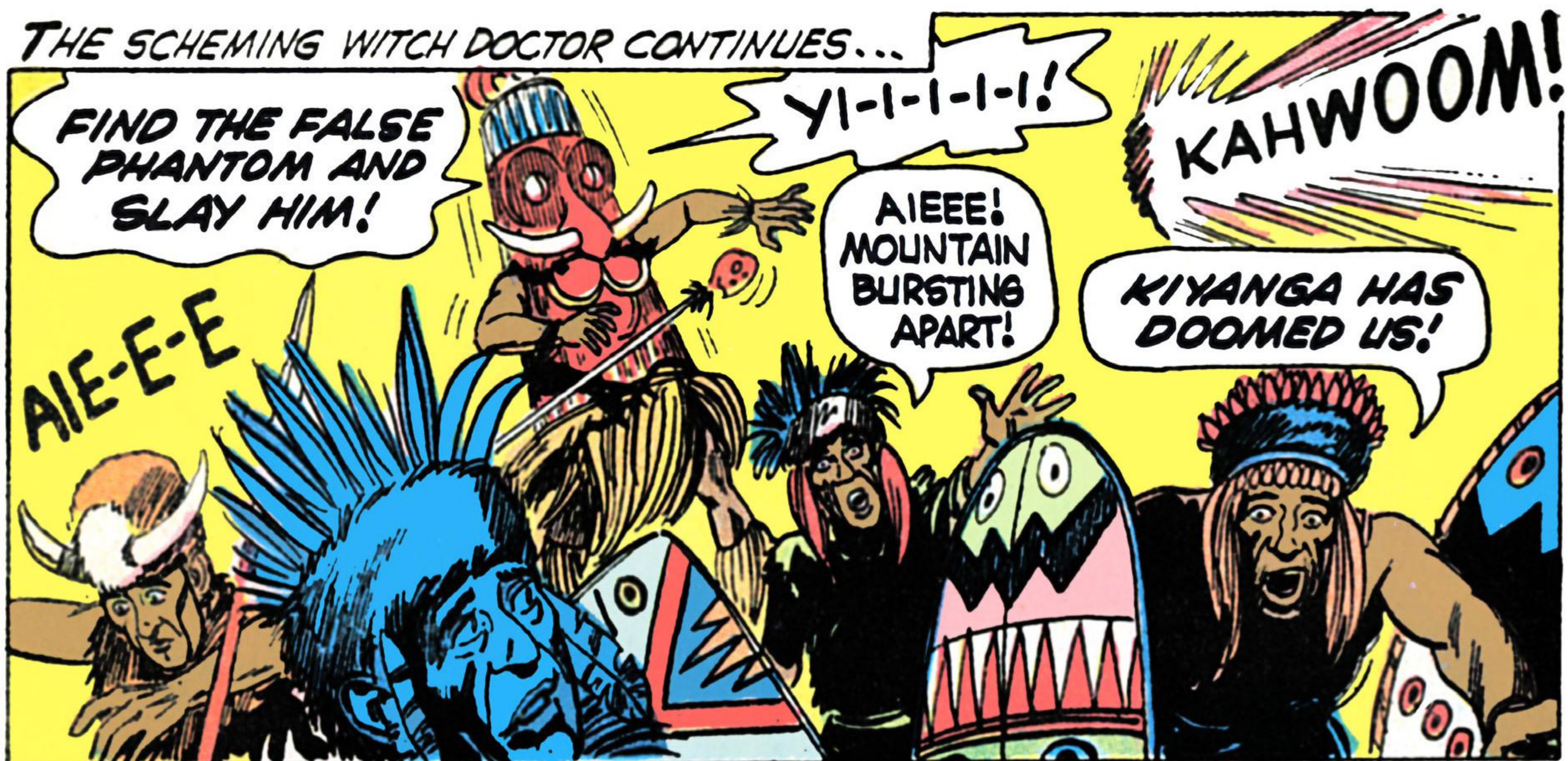
OUTSIDE, TULLUCK ALSO GIVES A COMMAND...

YOU HAVE HEARD THE SPIRIT OF THE GREAT KIYANGA SPEAK! YOU MUST OBEY!

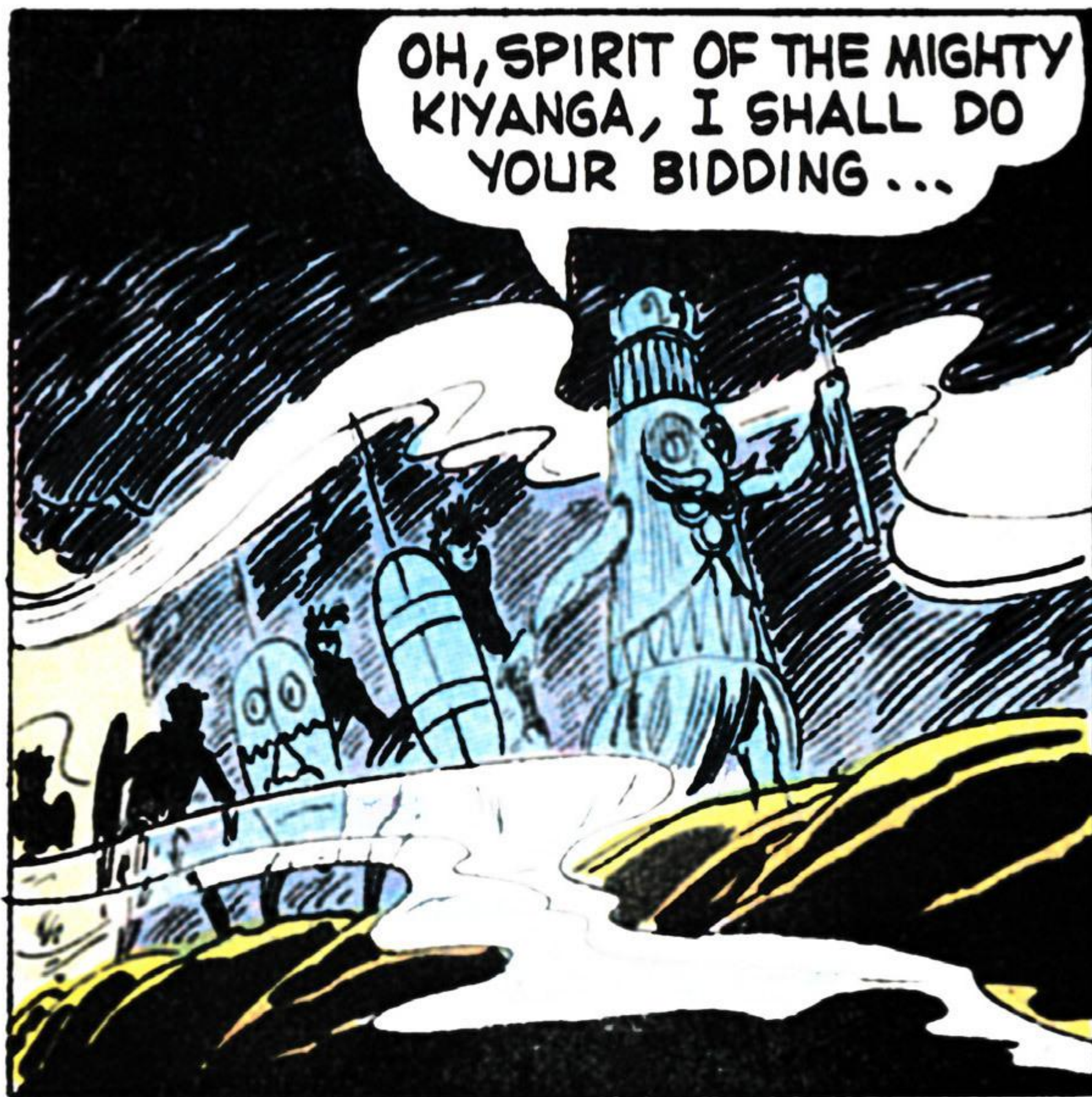




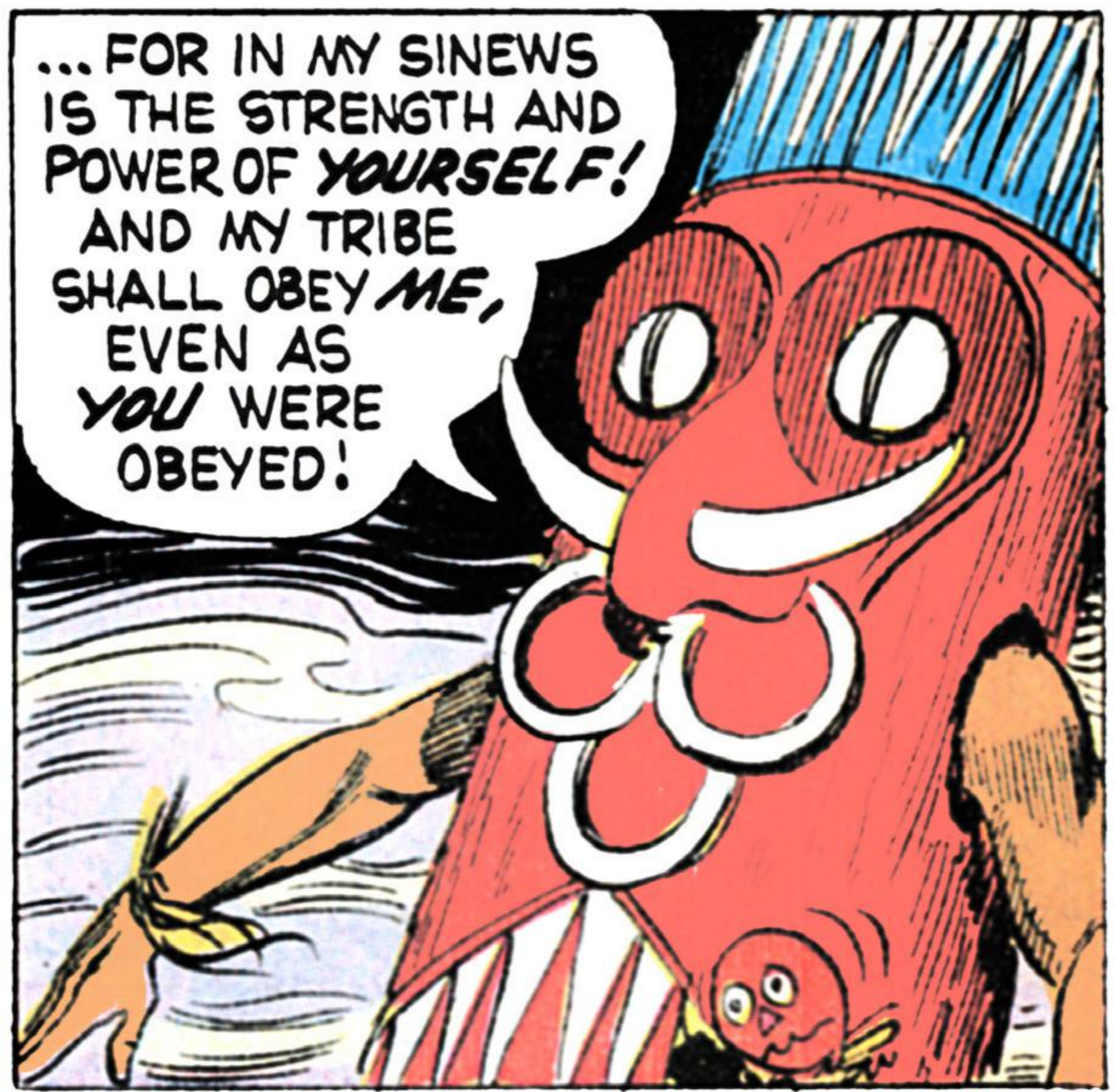
THE SCHEMING WITCH DOCTOR CONTINUES...



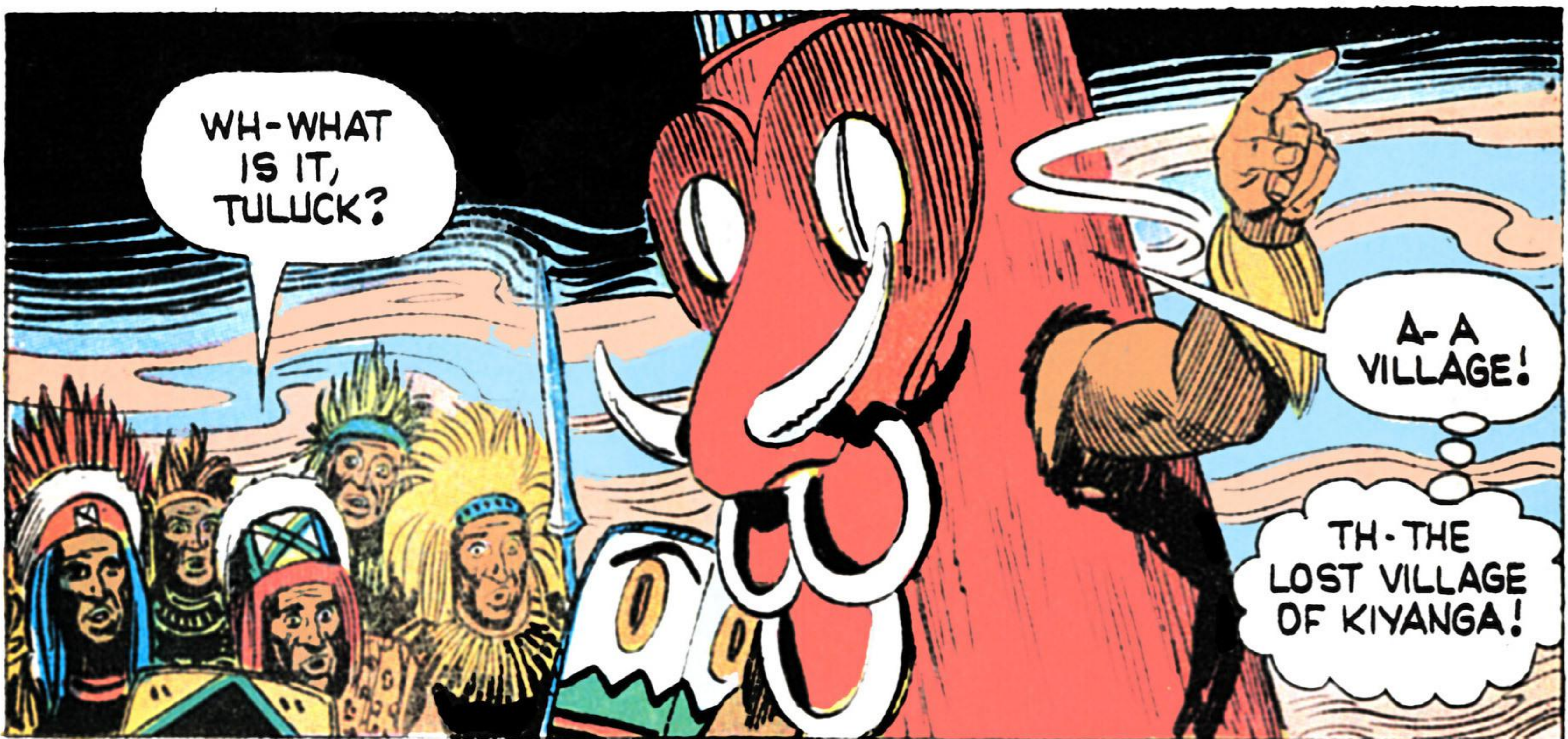




OH, SPIRIT OF THE MIGHTY  
KIYANGA, I SHALL DO  
YOUR BIDDING ...



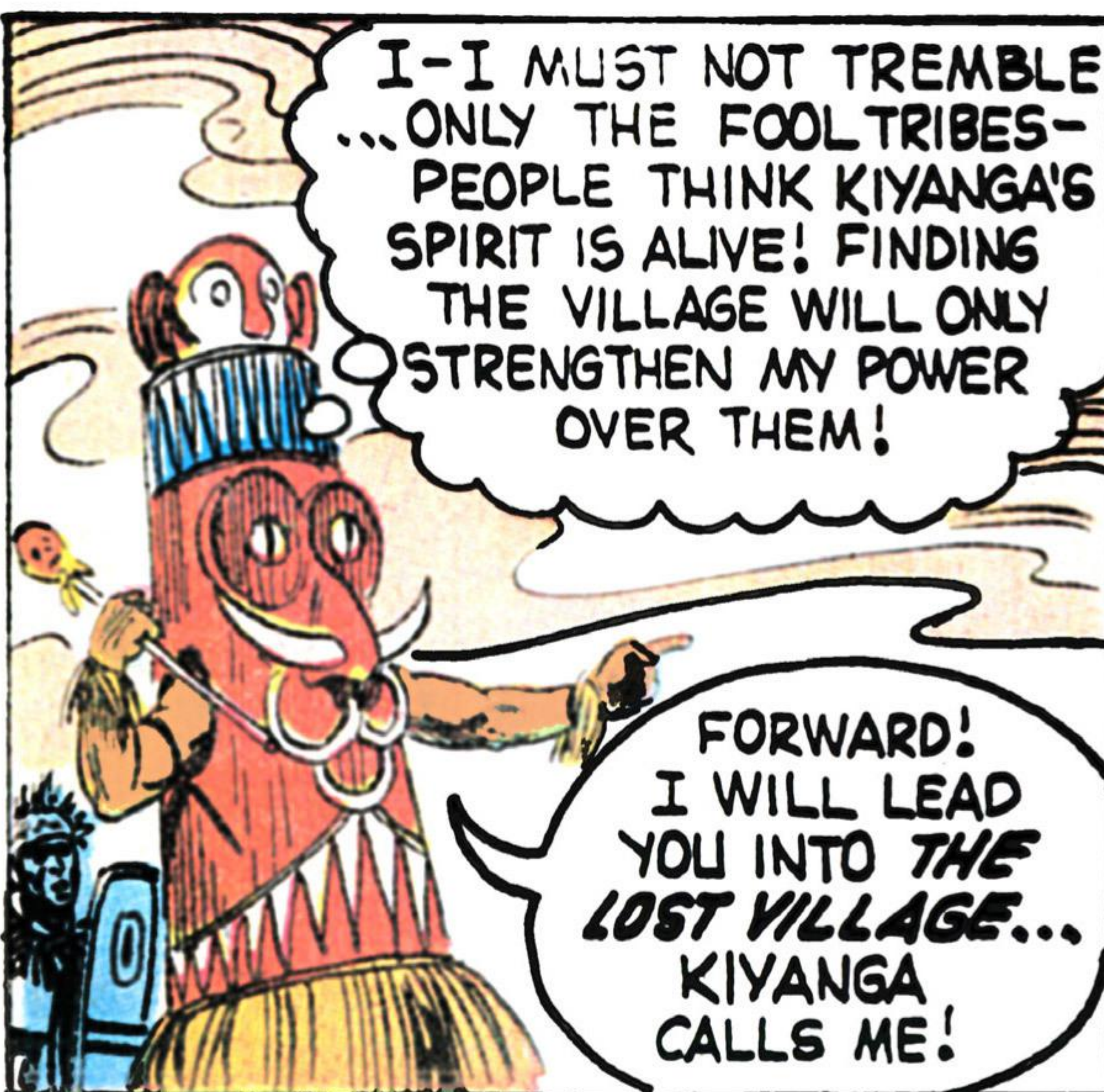
... FOR IN MY SINEWS  
IS THE STRENGTH AND  
POWER OF **YOURSELF!**  
AND MY TRIBE  
SHALL OBEY **ME,**  
EVEN AS  
**YOU** WERE  
OBEYED!



WH-WHAT  
IS IT,  
TULUCK?

A-A  
VILLAGE!

TH-THE  
LOST VILLAGE  
OF KİYANGA!



I-I MUST NOT TREMBLE  
... ONLY THE FOOL TRIBES-  
PEOPLE THINK KİYANGA'S  
SPIRIT IS ALIVE! FINDING  
THE VILLAGE WILL ONLY  
STRENGTHEN MY POWER  
OVER THEM!

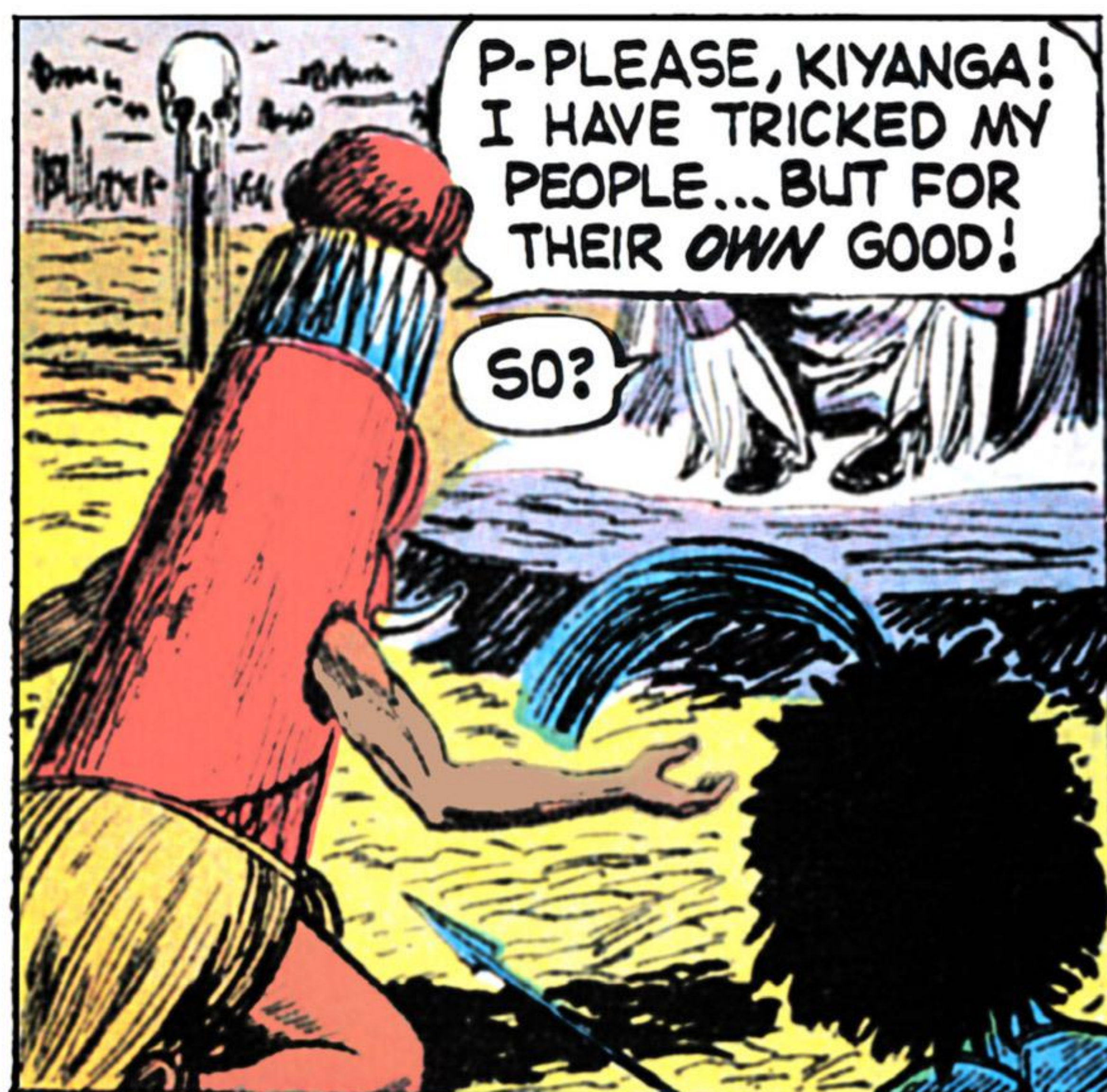
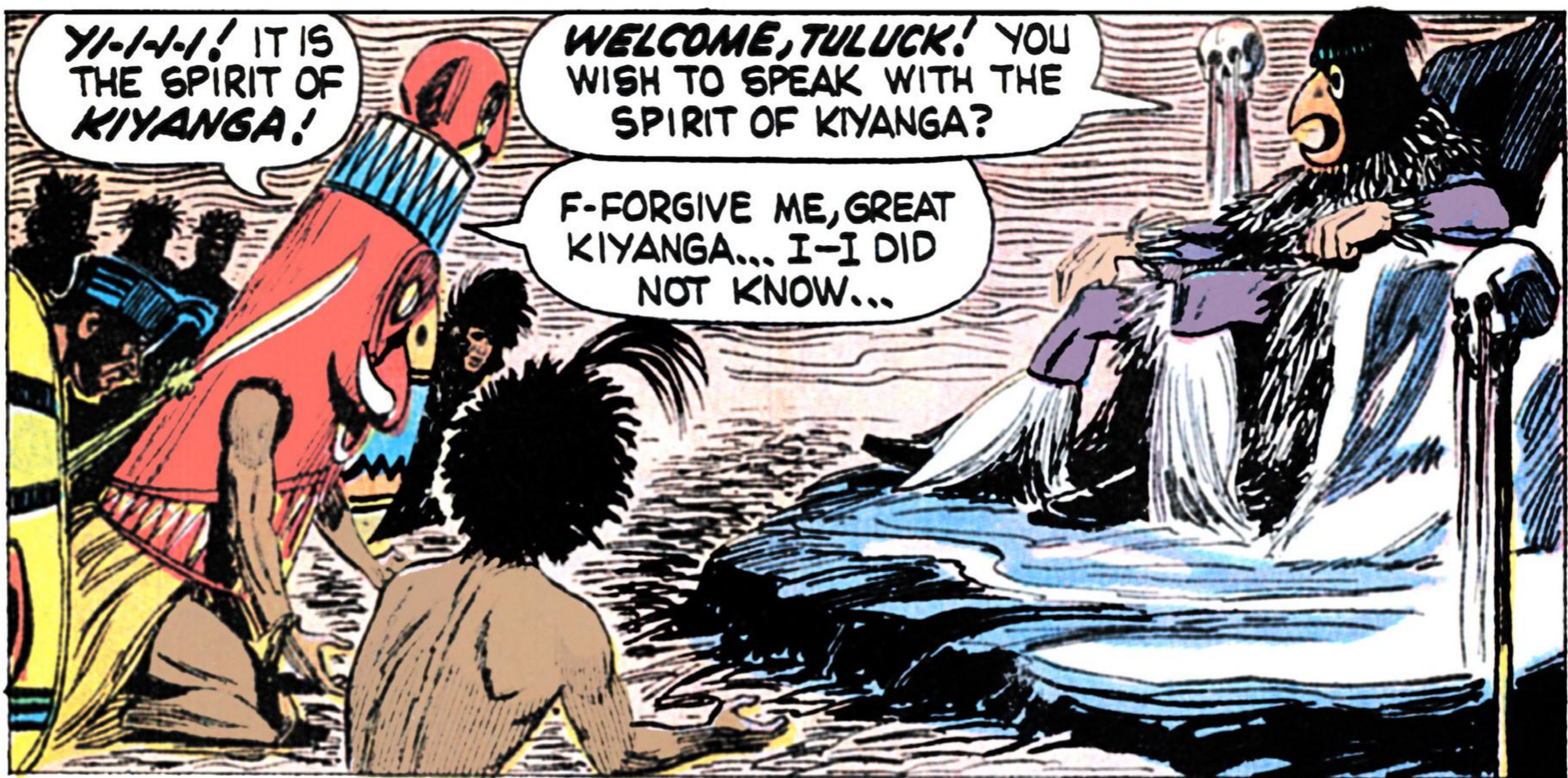
FORWARD!  
I WILL LEAD  
YOU INTO **THE  
LOST VILLAGE...**  
KIYANGA  
CALLS ME!



THE GREAT WITCH DOCTOR  
OF OUR ANCESTORS  
BIDS ME ENTER!

EH? WH-WHAT'S  
THAT... A  
THRONE? A-AND  
**SOMEONE**  
SITS UPON  
IT?

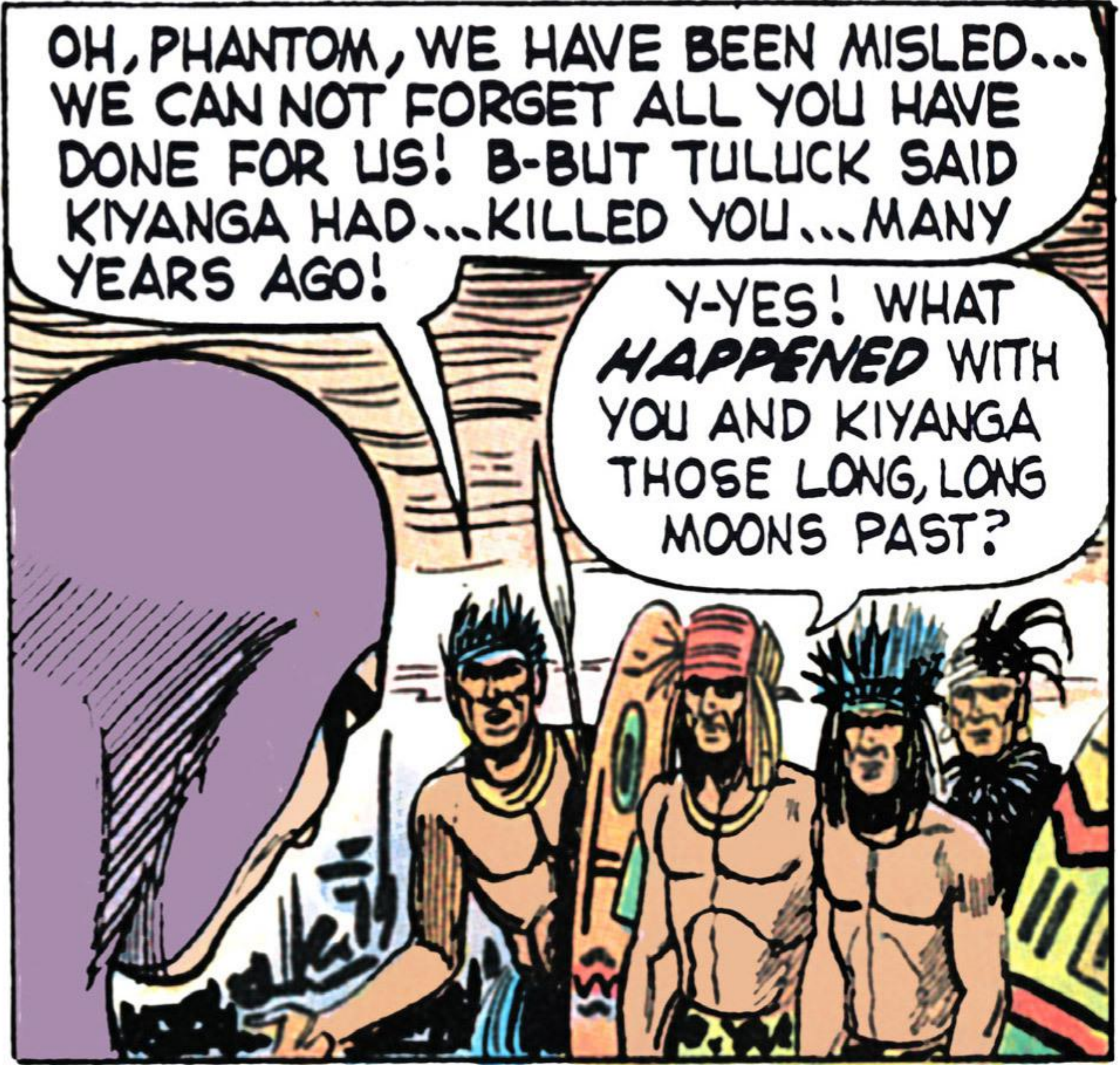






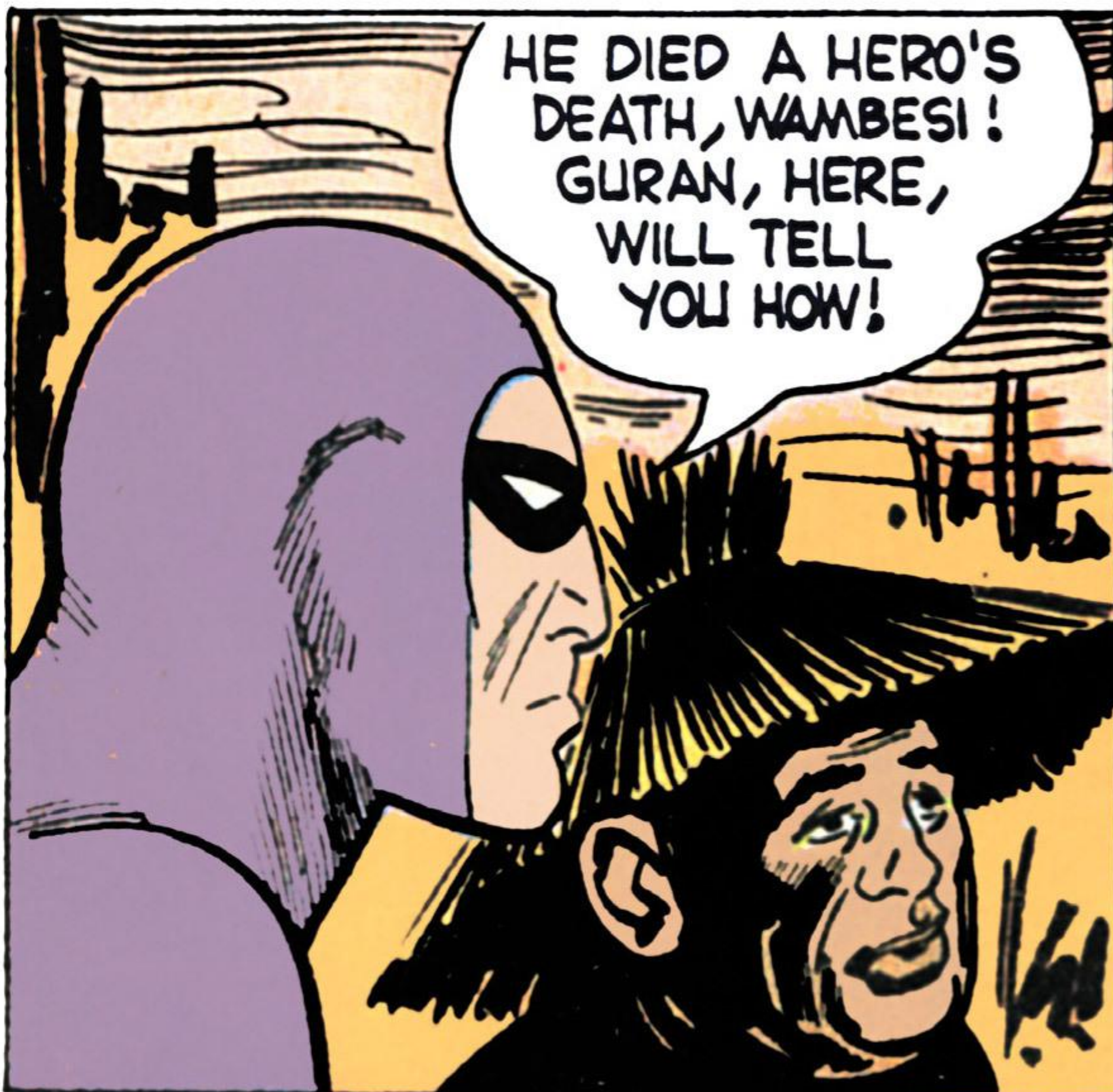




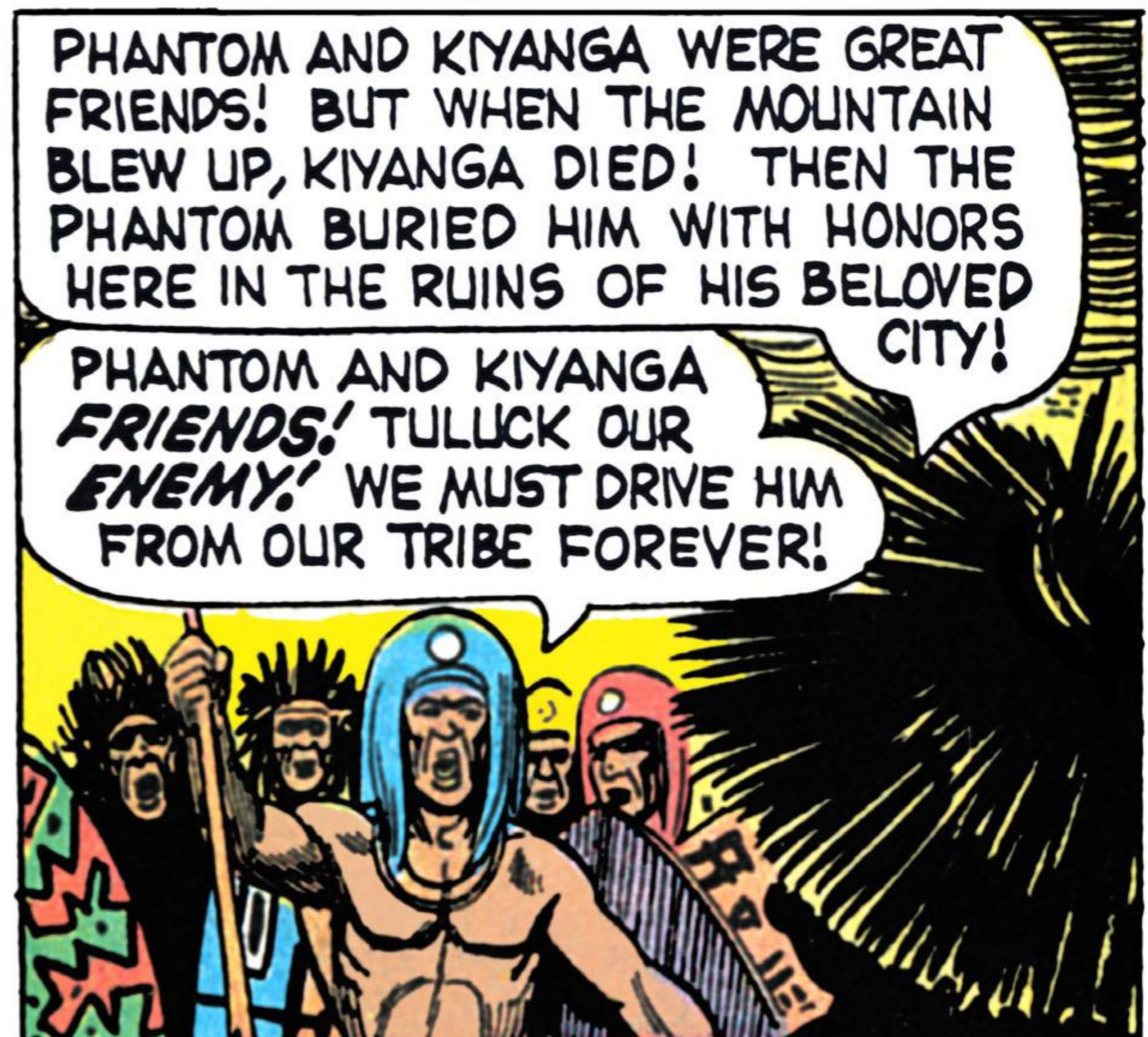


OH, PHANTOM, WE HAVE BEEN MISLED... WE CAN NOT FORGET ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR US! B-BUT TULUCK SAID KIYANGA HAD...KILLED YOU...MANY YEARS AGO!

Y-YES! WHAT **HAPPENED** WITH YOU AND KIYANGA THOSE LONG, LONG MOONS PAST?

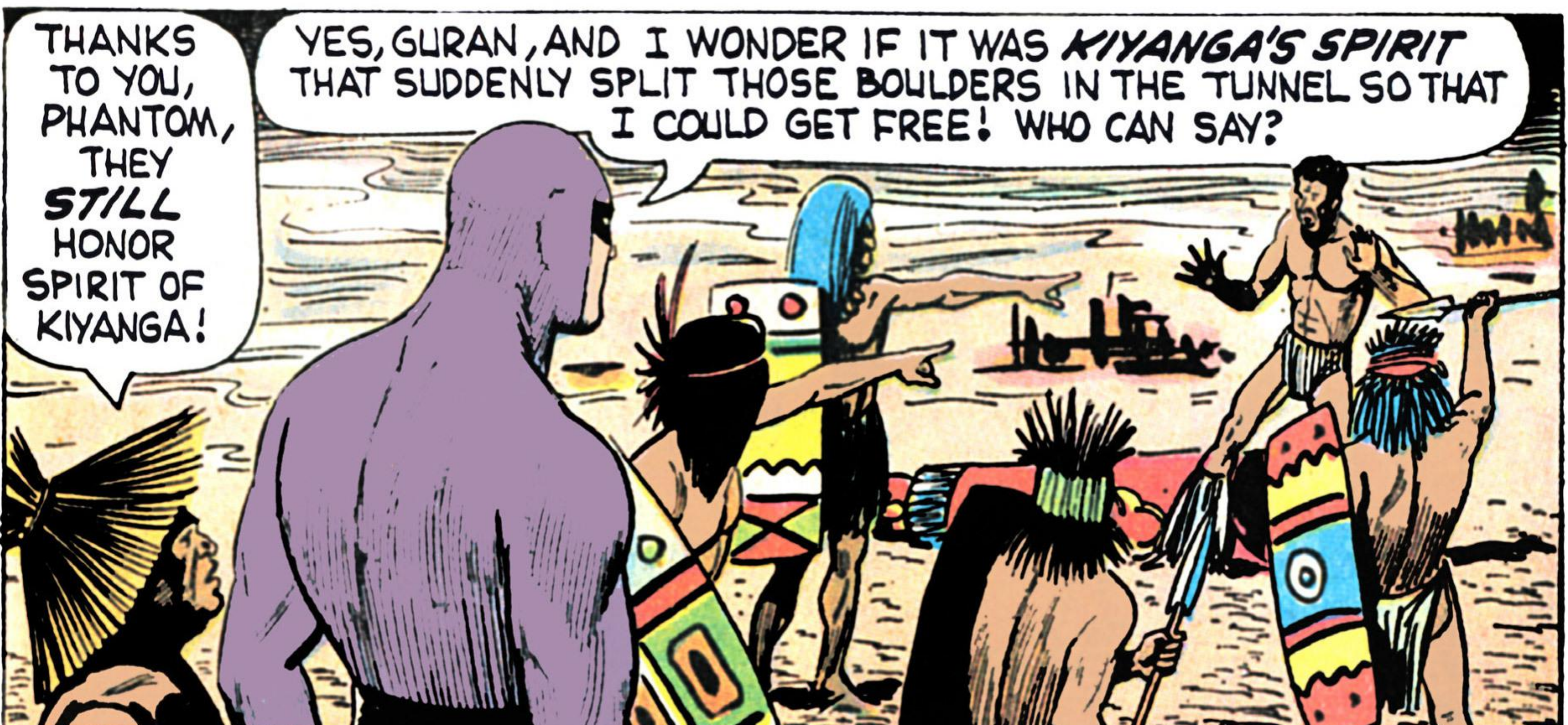


HE DIED A HERO'S DEATH, WAMBESI! GURAN, HERE, WILL TELL YOU HOW!



PHANTOM AND KIYANGA WERE GREAT FRIENDS! BUT WHEN THE MOUNTAIN BLEW UP, KIYANGA DIED! THEN THE PHANTOM BURIED HIM WITH HONORS HERE IN THE RUINS OF HIS BELOVED CITY!

PHANTOM AND KIYANGA **FRIENDS!** TULUCK OUR **ENEMY!** WE MUST DRIVE HIM FROM OUR TRIBE FOREVER!



THANKS TO YOU, PHANTOM, THEY **STILL** HONOR SPIRIT OF KIYANGA!

YES, GURAN, AND I WONDER IF IT WAS **KIYANGA'S SPIRIT** THAT SUDDENLY SPLIT THOSE BOULDERS IN THE TUNNEL SO THAT I COULD GET FREE! WHO CAN SAY?





Above: original Jim Aparo artwork for Charlton's *The Phantom* #32, read the entire story in Hermes Press' *The Phantom: The Complete Series: The Charlton Years: Volume One*.



# THE PHANTOM





THE PHANTOM  
PART ONE

# DELILAH

**O**N A GREAT RIVER RUNNING NEAR THE DEEP WOODS, A FEARSOME FORM OF SUDDEN DEATH MOVES IN UPON THE GHOST WHO WALKS! AND WITH EYES GLAZED, THE FAITHFUL GURAN, IGNORES THE DANGER TO HIS FRIEND, FOR BOTH ARE HELPLESS VICTIMS OF THE TERRIBLE POWERS OF DELILAH...

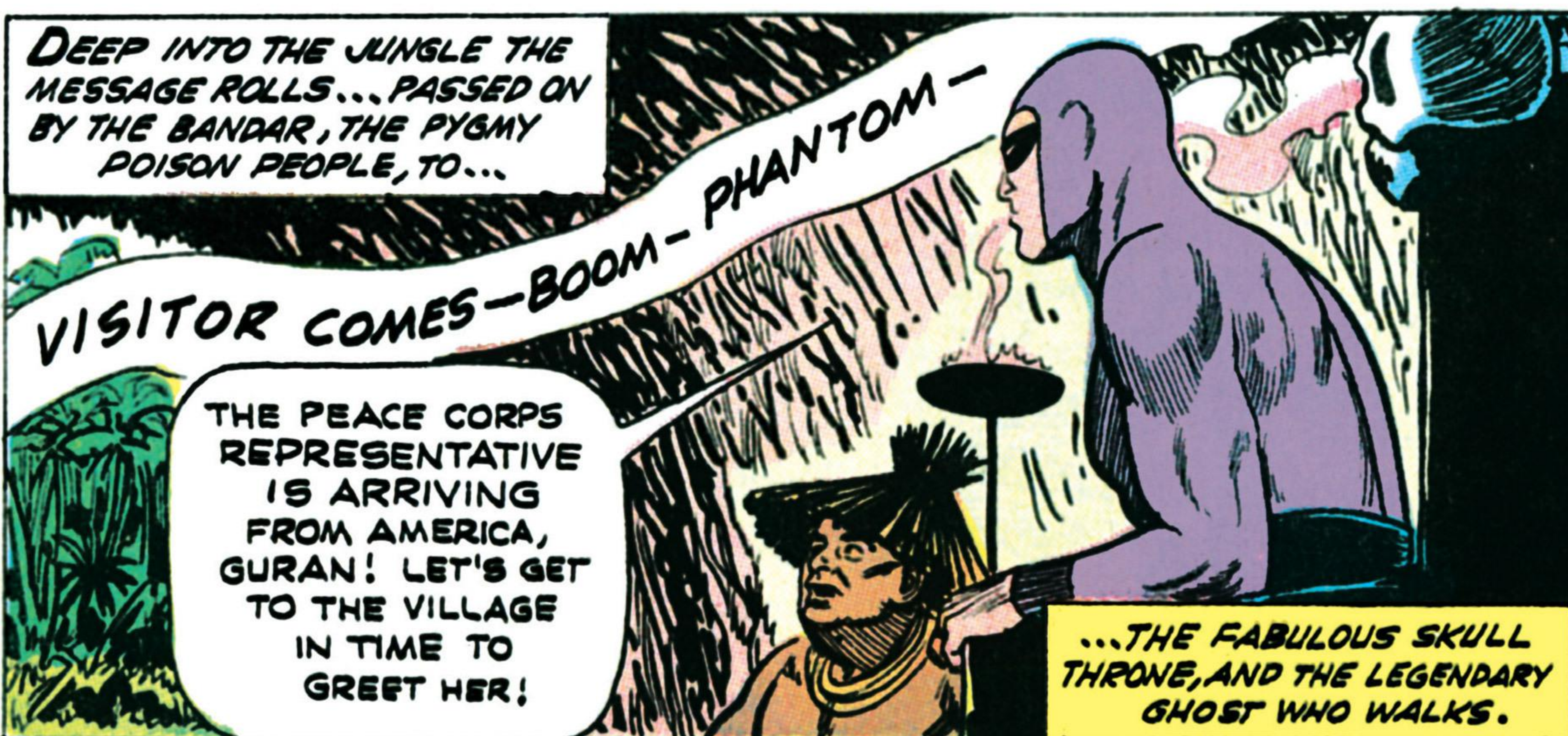




IN A CORNER OF THE BENGALI JUNGLE,  
FAR FROM THE DEEP WOODS, A WAMBESI  
WARRIOR SPRINGS TO ATTENTION AS...



DEEP INTO THE JUNGLE THE  
MESSAGE ROLLS... PASSED ON  
BY THE BANDAR, THE PYGMY  
POISON PEOPLE, TO...

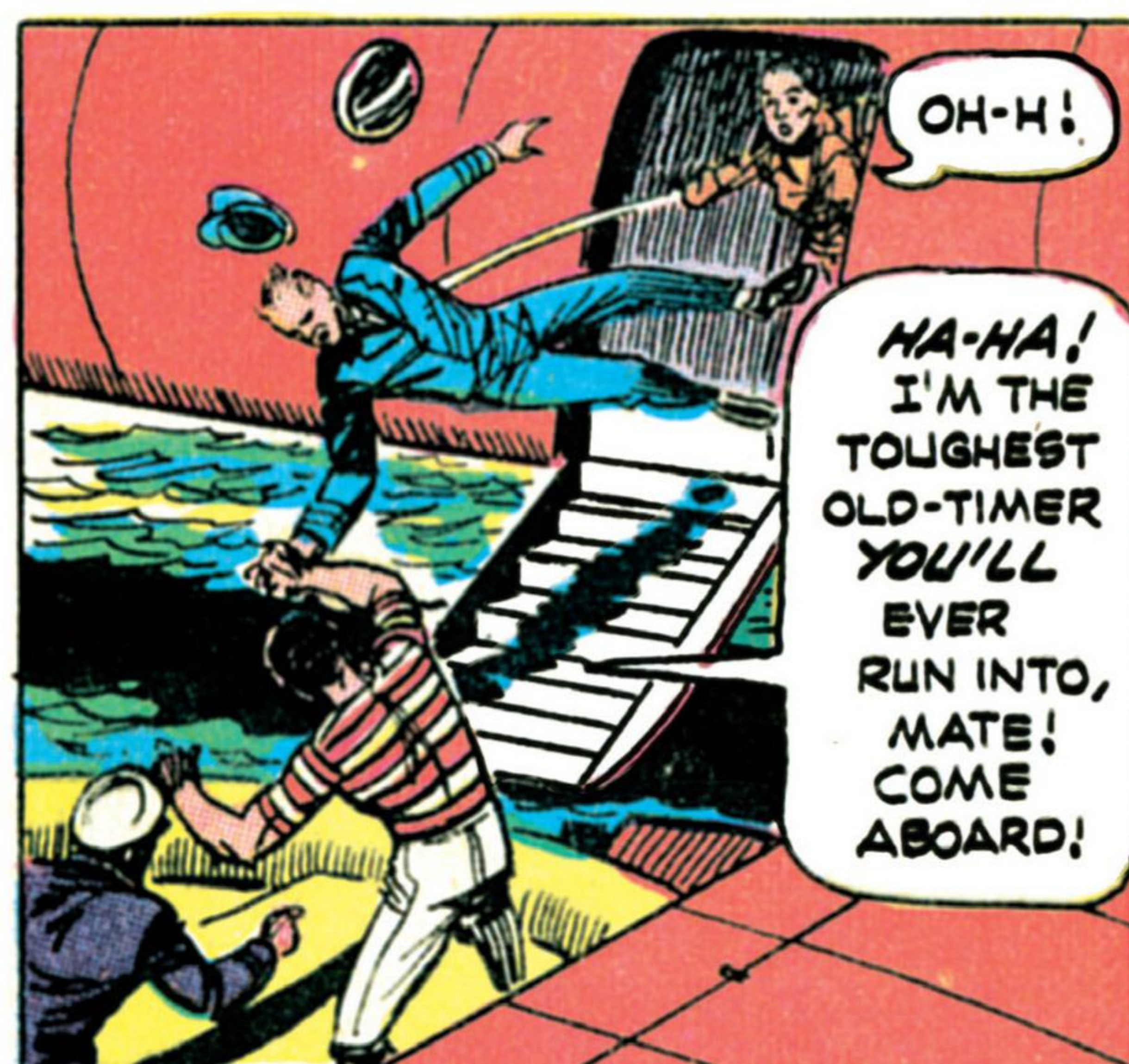
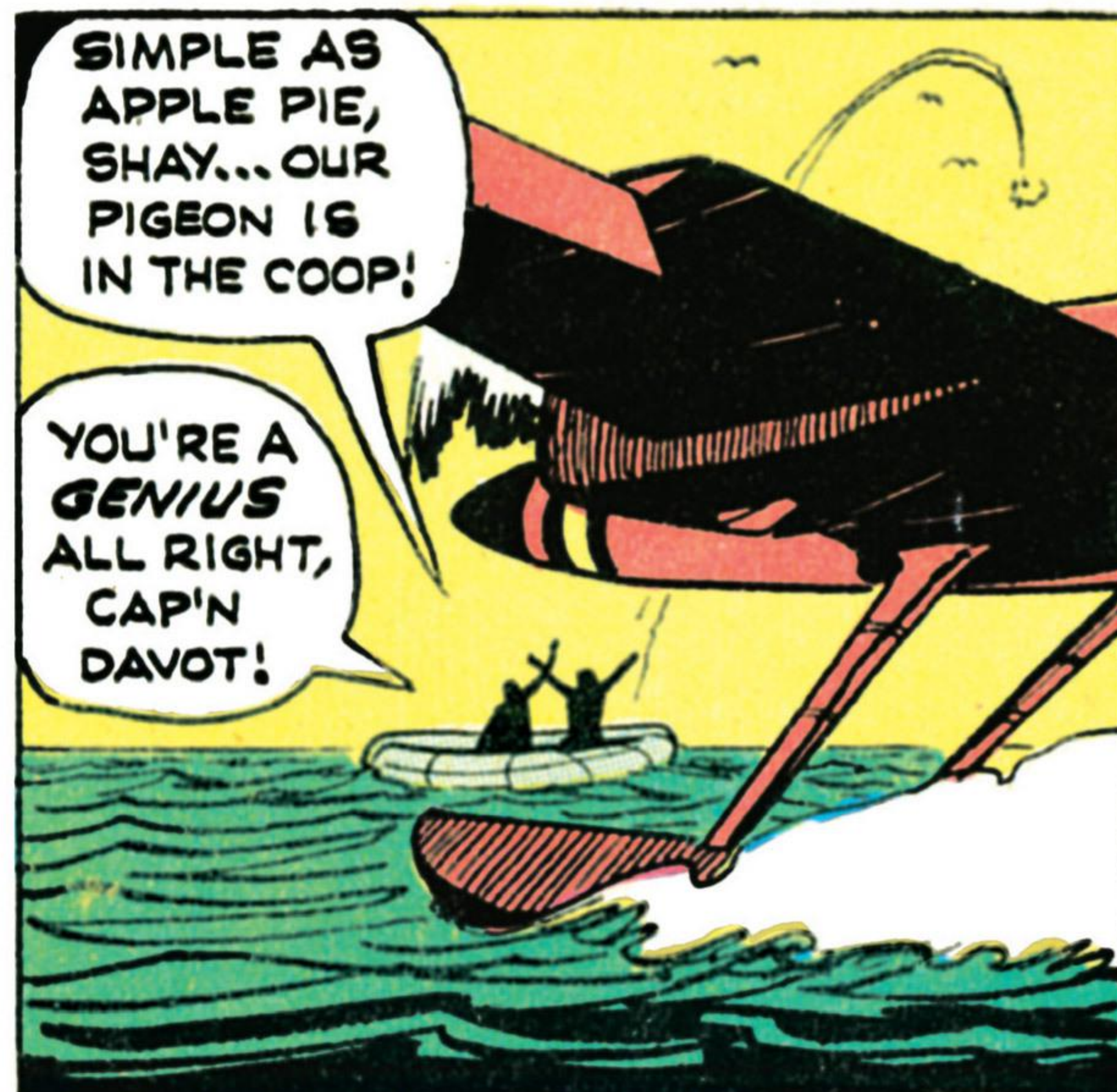
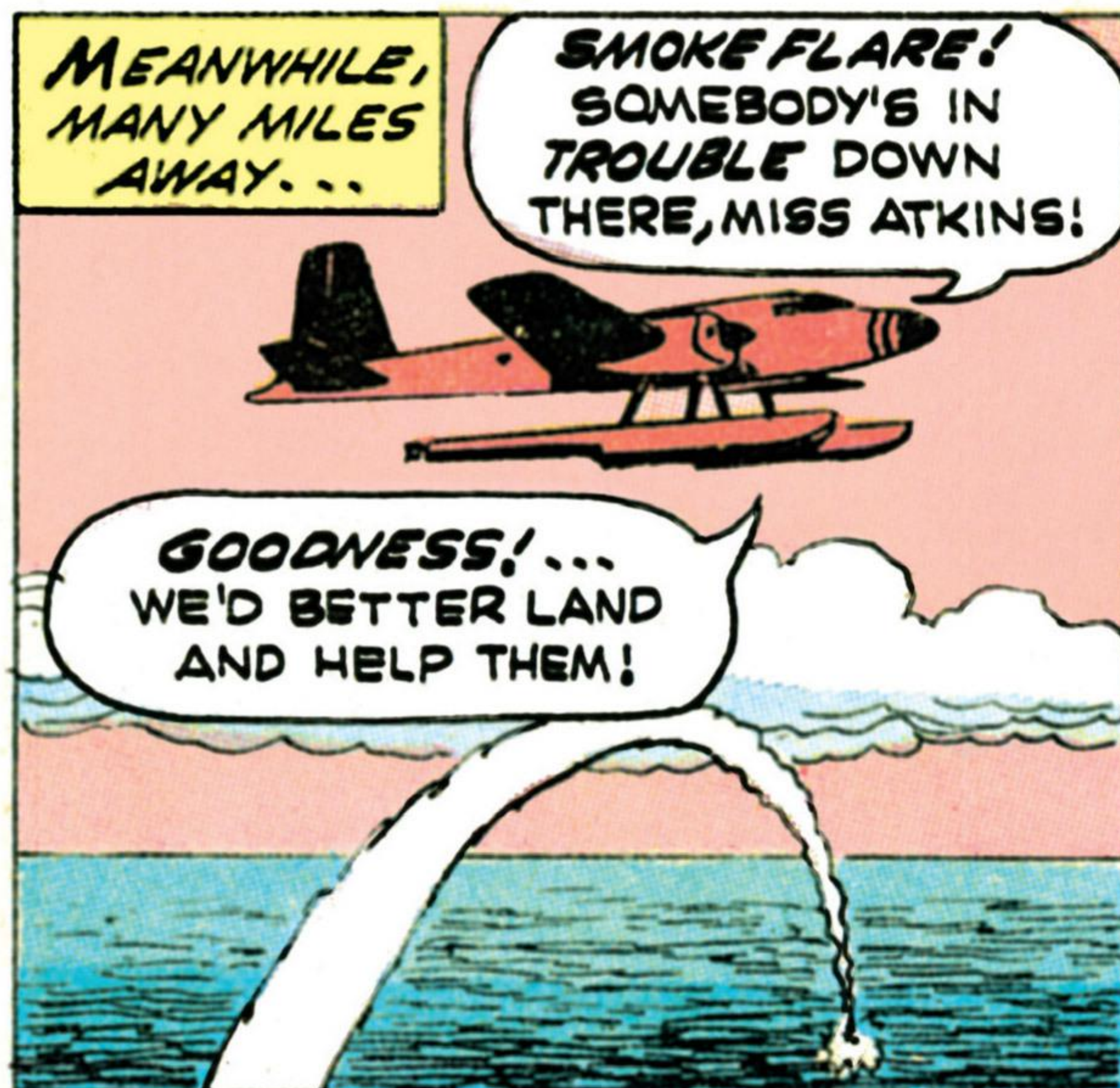


...THE FABULOUS SKULL  
THRONE, AND THE LEGENDARY  
GHOST WHO WALKS.

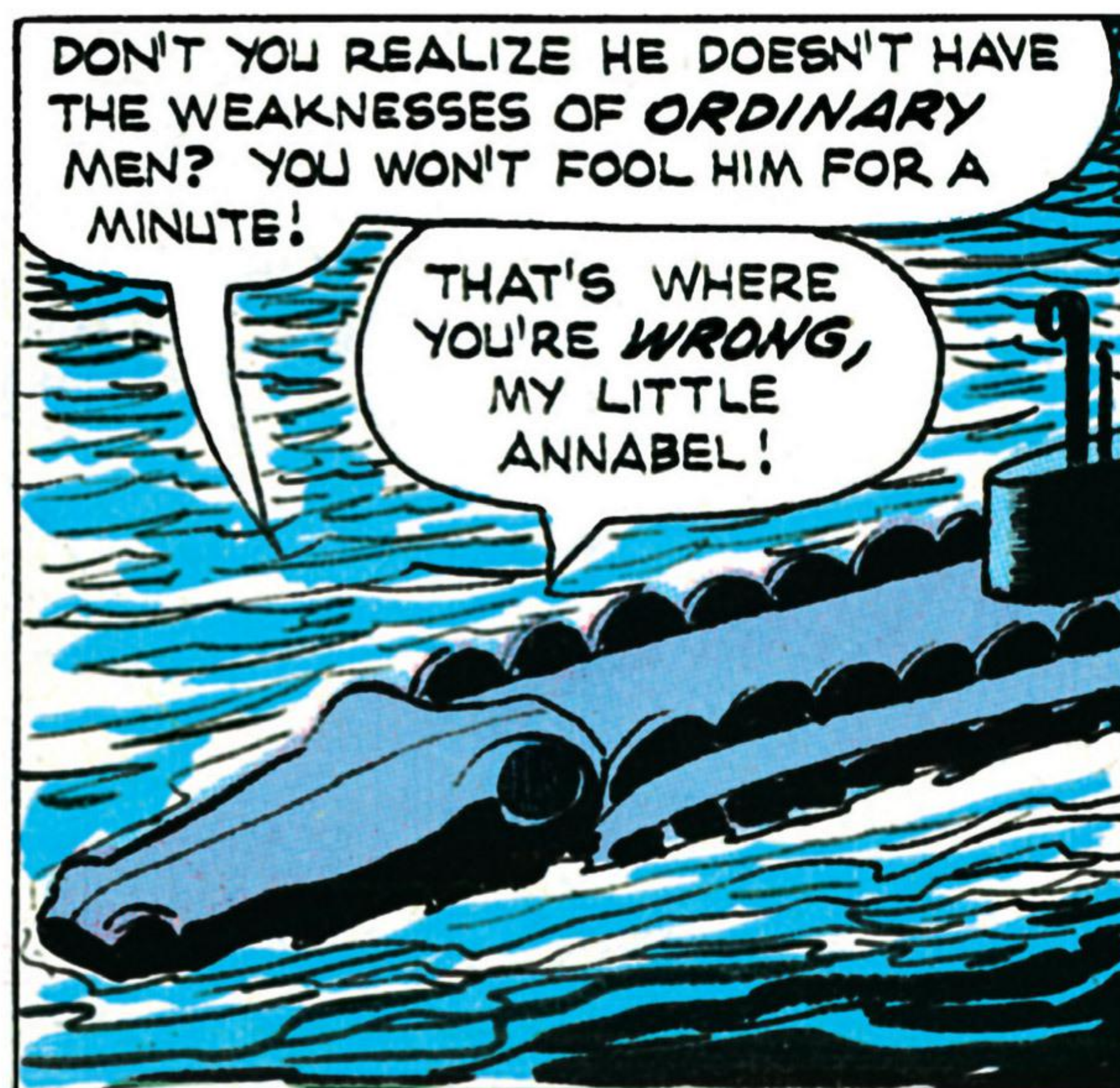
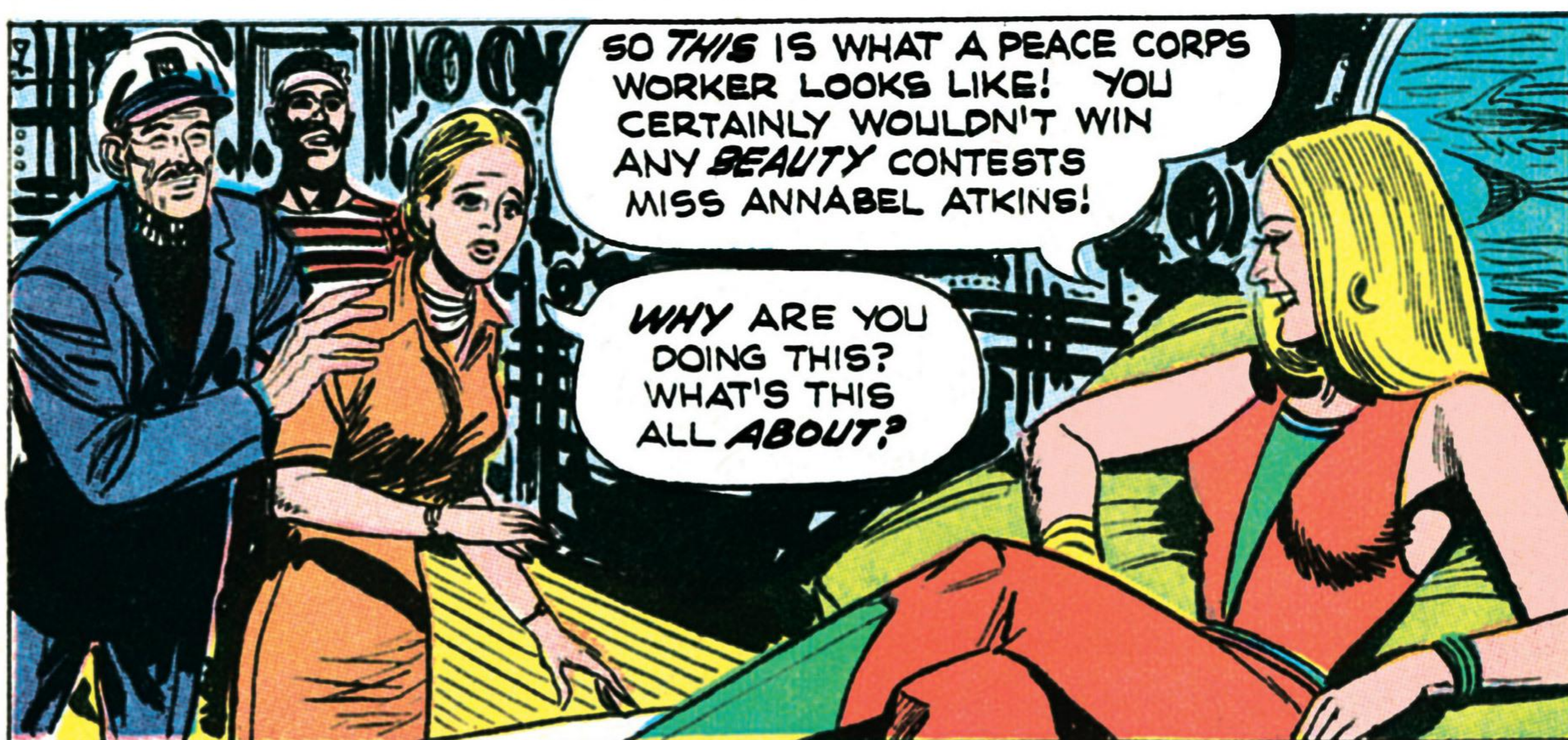
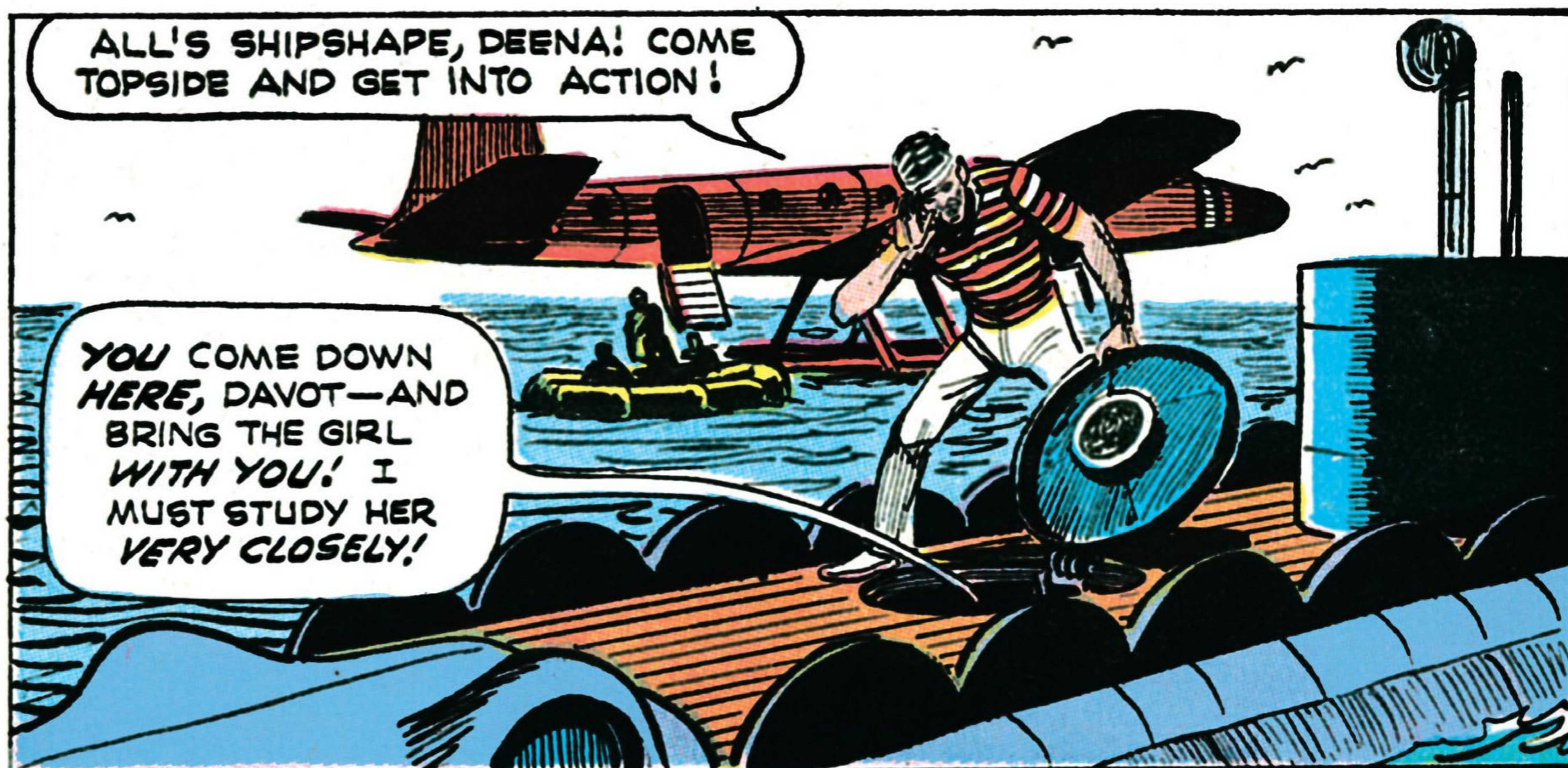
THE PEOPLE FROM THE CORPS ARE  
SPREADING OUT TO ALL PARTS OF THE  
WORLD! THEY'LL BE GOOD FOR THE  
BENGALI NATIVES, GURAN!



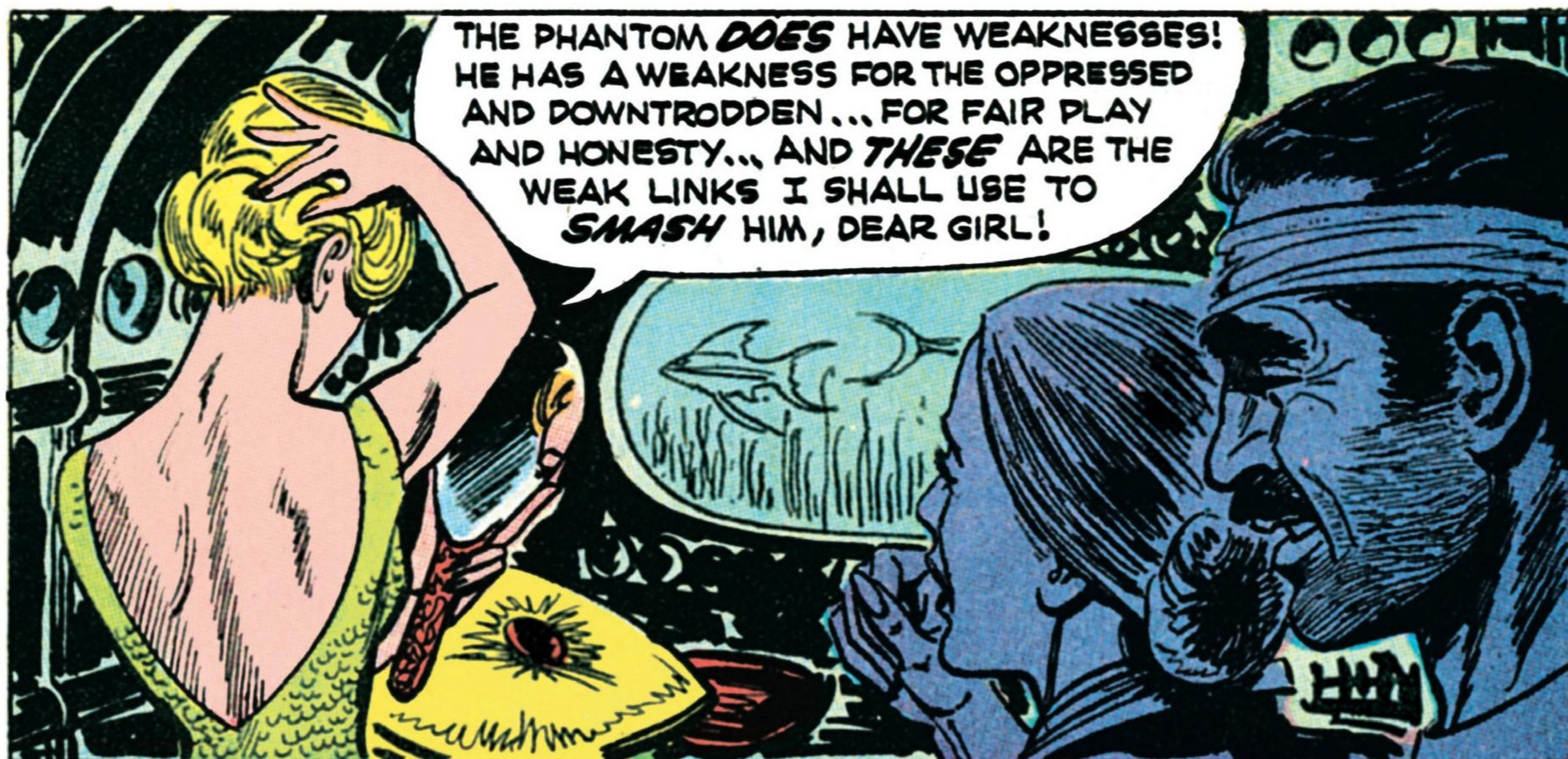




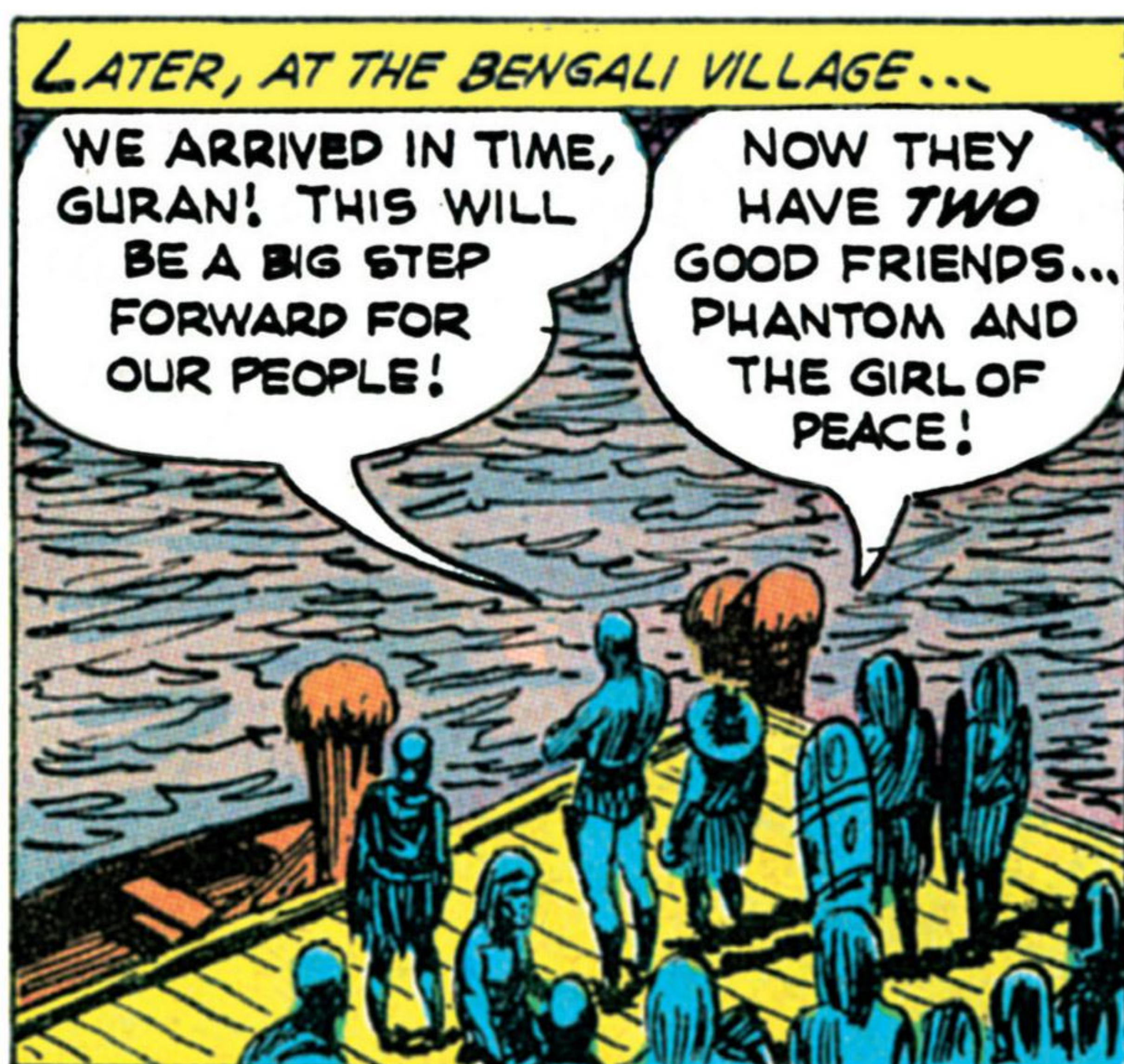








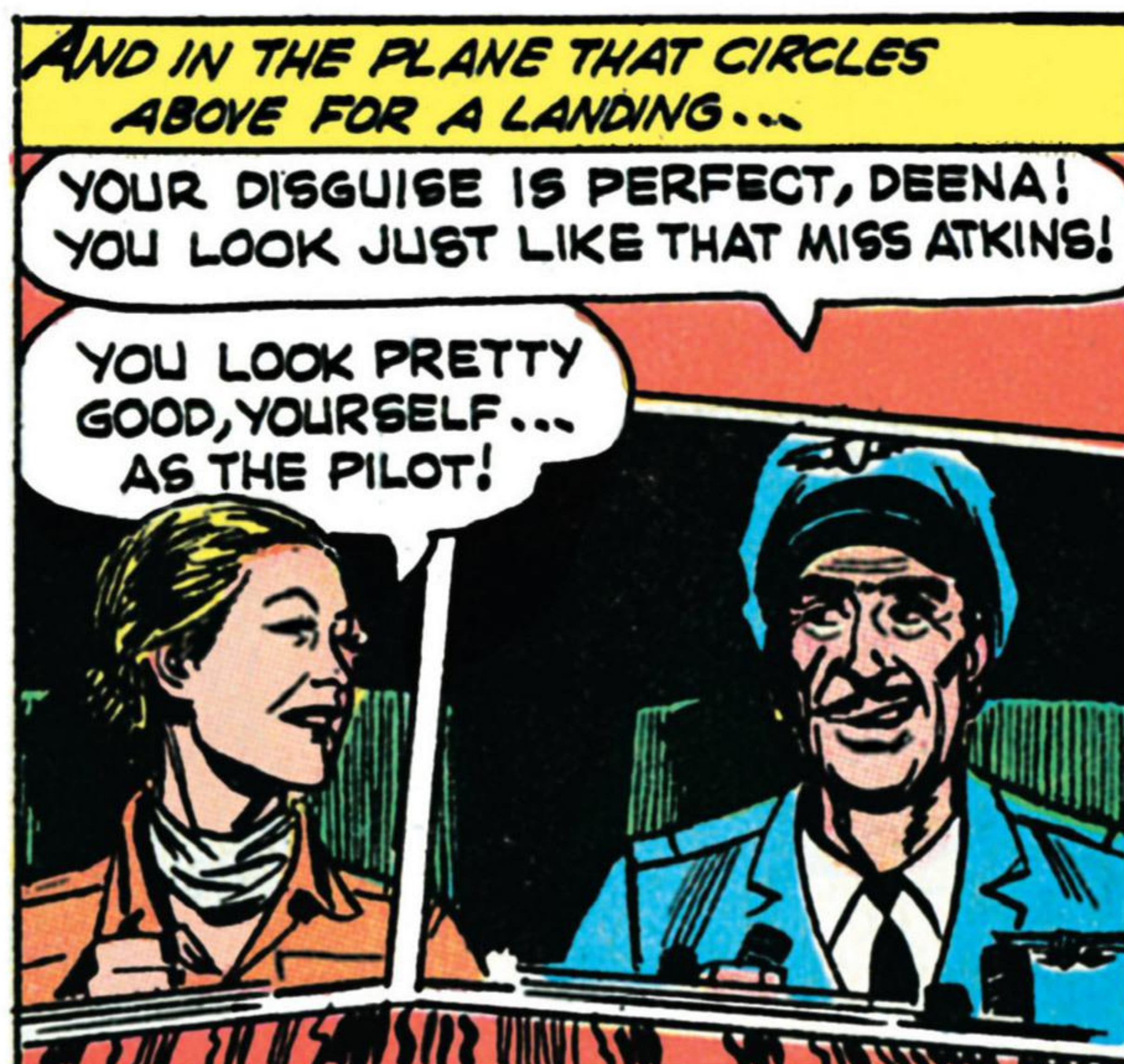
THE PHANTOM **DOES** HAVE WEAKNESSES! HE HAS A WEAKNESS FOR THE OPPRESSED AND DOWNTRODDEN... FOR FAIR PLAY AND HONESTY... AND **THESE** ARE THE WEAK LINKS I SHALL USE TO **SMASH** HIM, DEAR GIRL!



LATER, AT THE BENGALI VILLAGE...

WE ARRIVED IN TIME, GURAN! THIS WILL BE A BIG STEP FORWARD FOR OUR PEOPLE!

NOW THEY HAVE **TWO** GOOD FRIENDS... PHANTOM AND THE GIRL OF PEACE!



AND IN THE PLANE THAT CIRCLES ABOVE FOR A LANDING...

YOUR DISGUISE IS PERFECT, DEENA! YOU LOOK JUST LIKE THAT MISS ATKINS!

YOU LOOK PRETTY GOOD, YOURSELF... AS THE PILOT!



...NOW, REMEMBER OUR PLANS FOR THE PHANTOM! DO IT FAST... HE CAN BE DANGEROUS TO OUR OPERATION!

DON'T WORRY, JUST DO YOUR JOB!



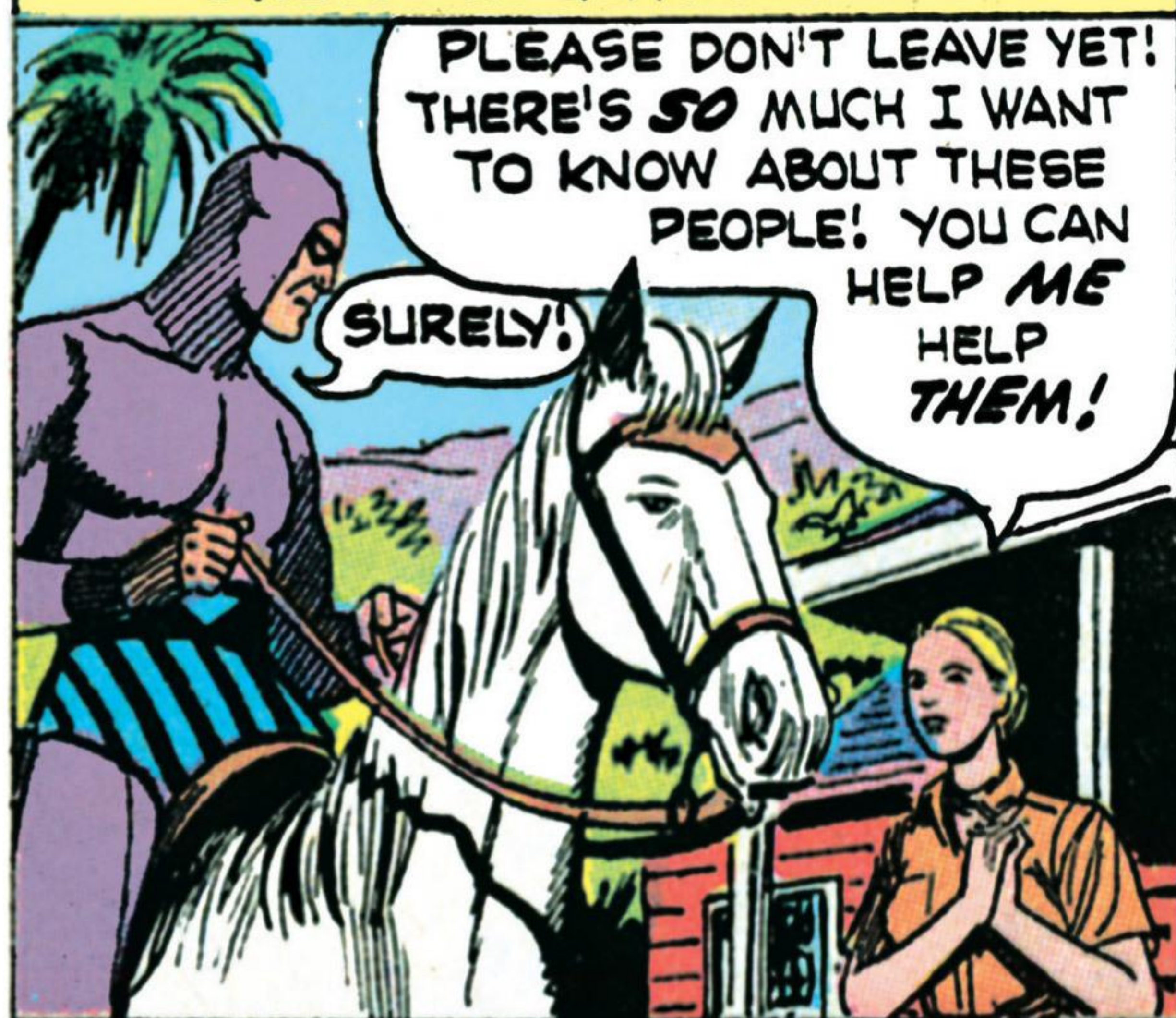
MINUTES LATER...

WELCOME, MISS ATKINS! WE'LL SEE THAT YOU ARE MADE AS COMFORTABLE AS POSSIBLE!

THANK YOU, PHANTOM!



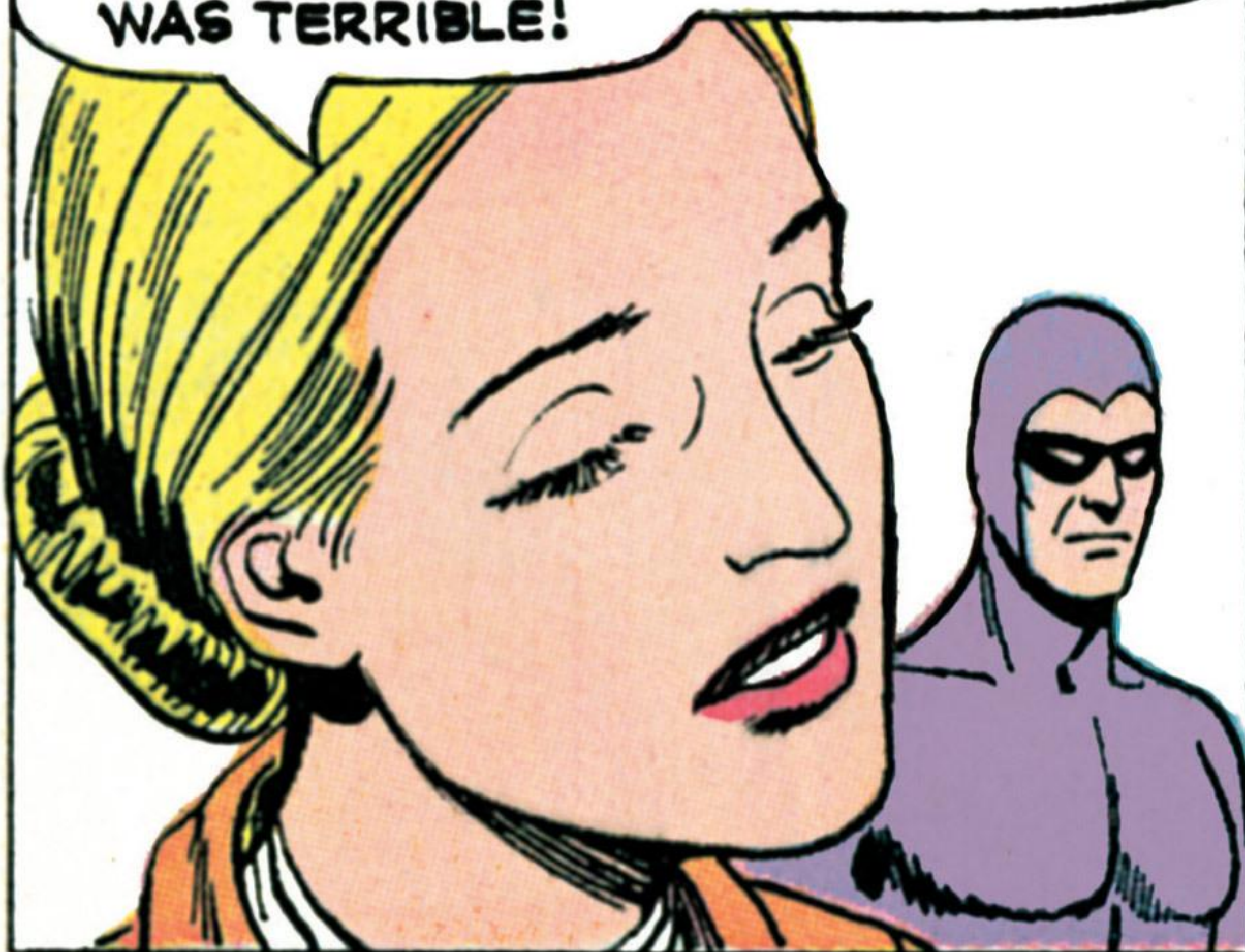
**BUT WHEN THE PHANTOM SHOWS THE GIRL TO HER QUARTERS...**



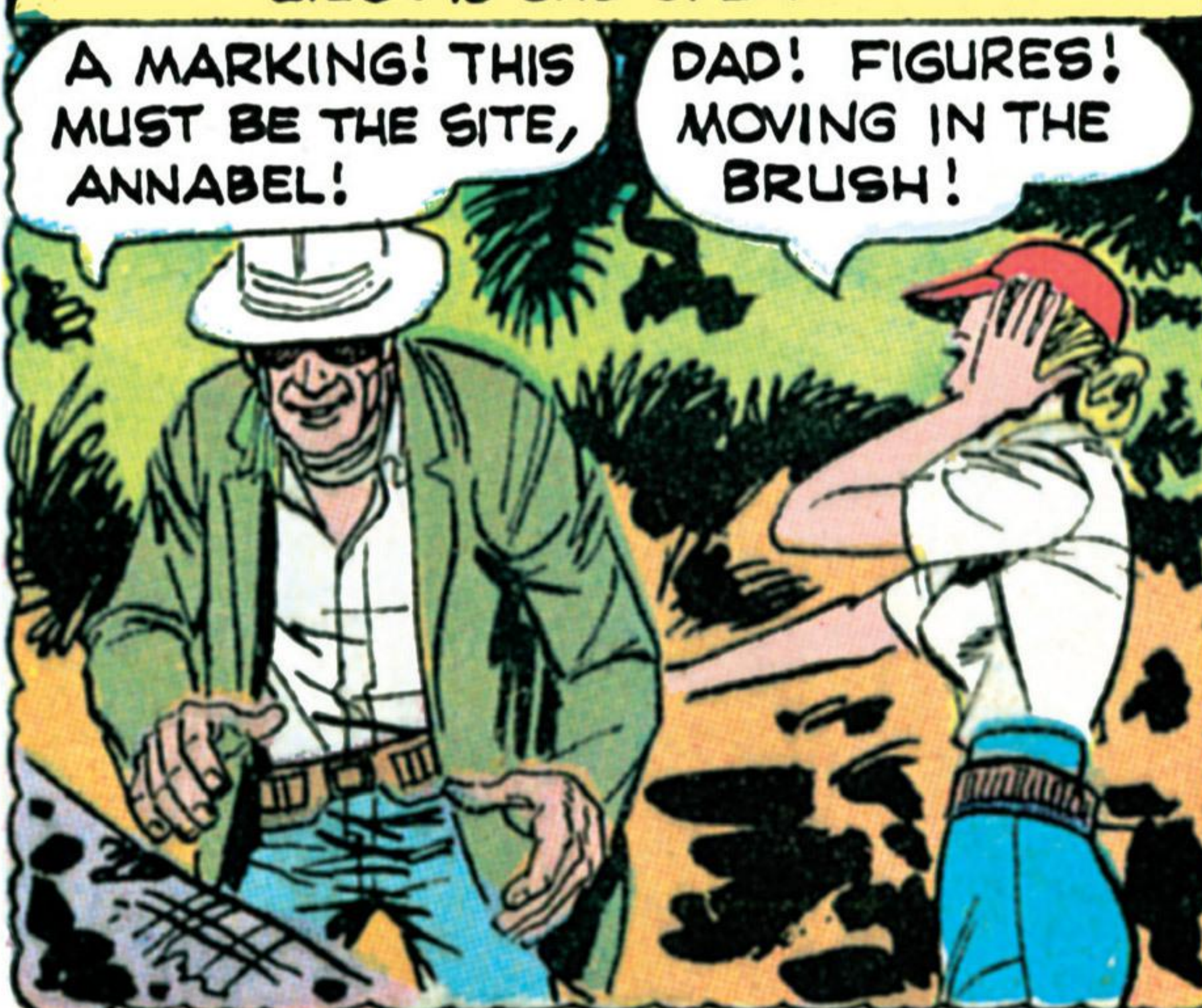
**YOU KNOW, MY FATHER SPENT HIS LIFE IN THE PERUVIAN JUNGLE... I LIVED THERE MANY YEARS WITH HIM!**



**YES... AN ARCHAEOLOGIST... HE DIED SEARCHING FOR ANCIENT INCA RUINS... A-AND I WAS AT HIS SIDE! I-IT WAS TERRIBLE!**



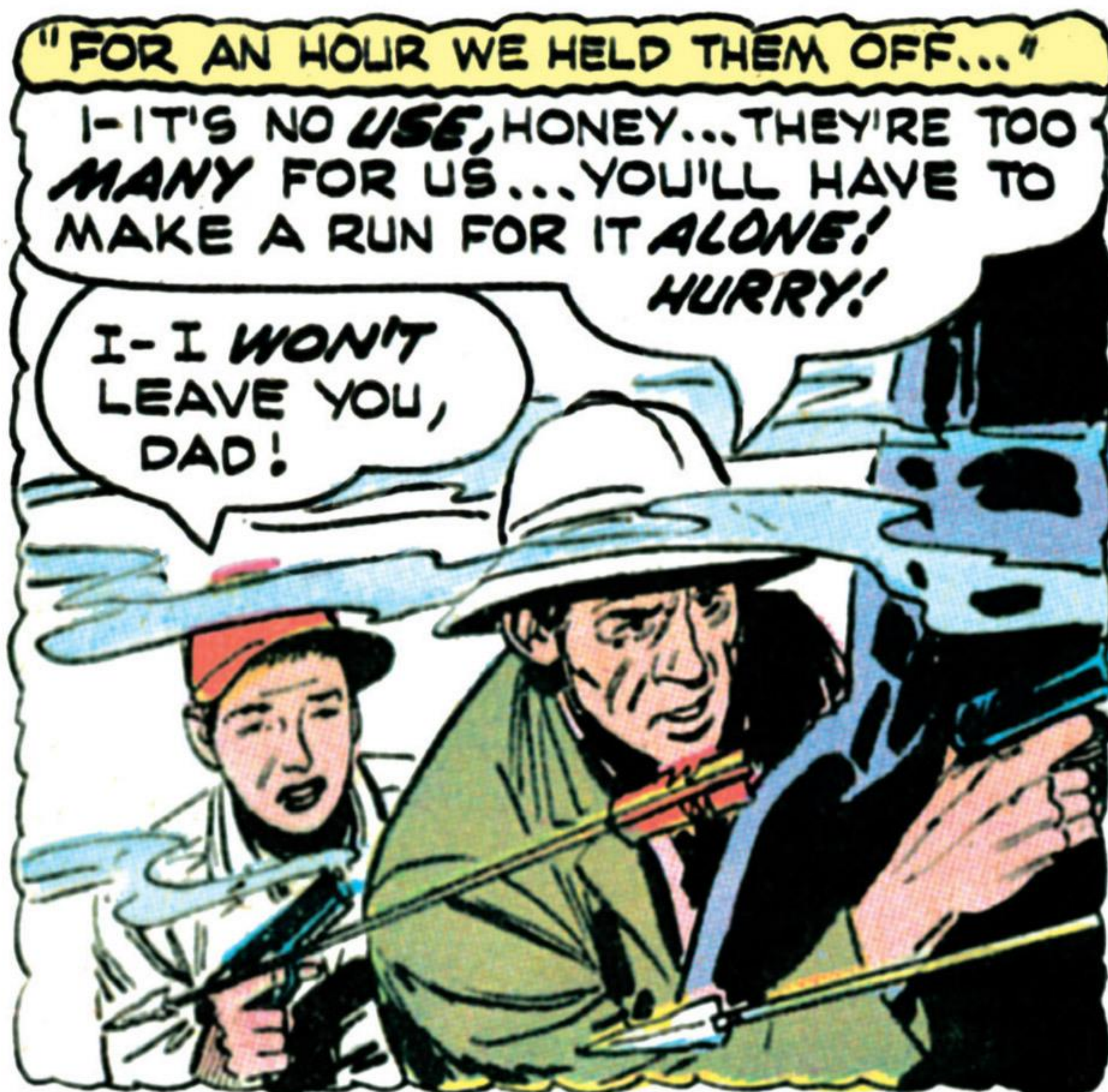
**THE PHANTOM VISUALIZES DEENA'S LIES AS SHE SPEAKS...**



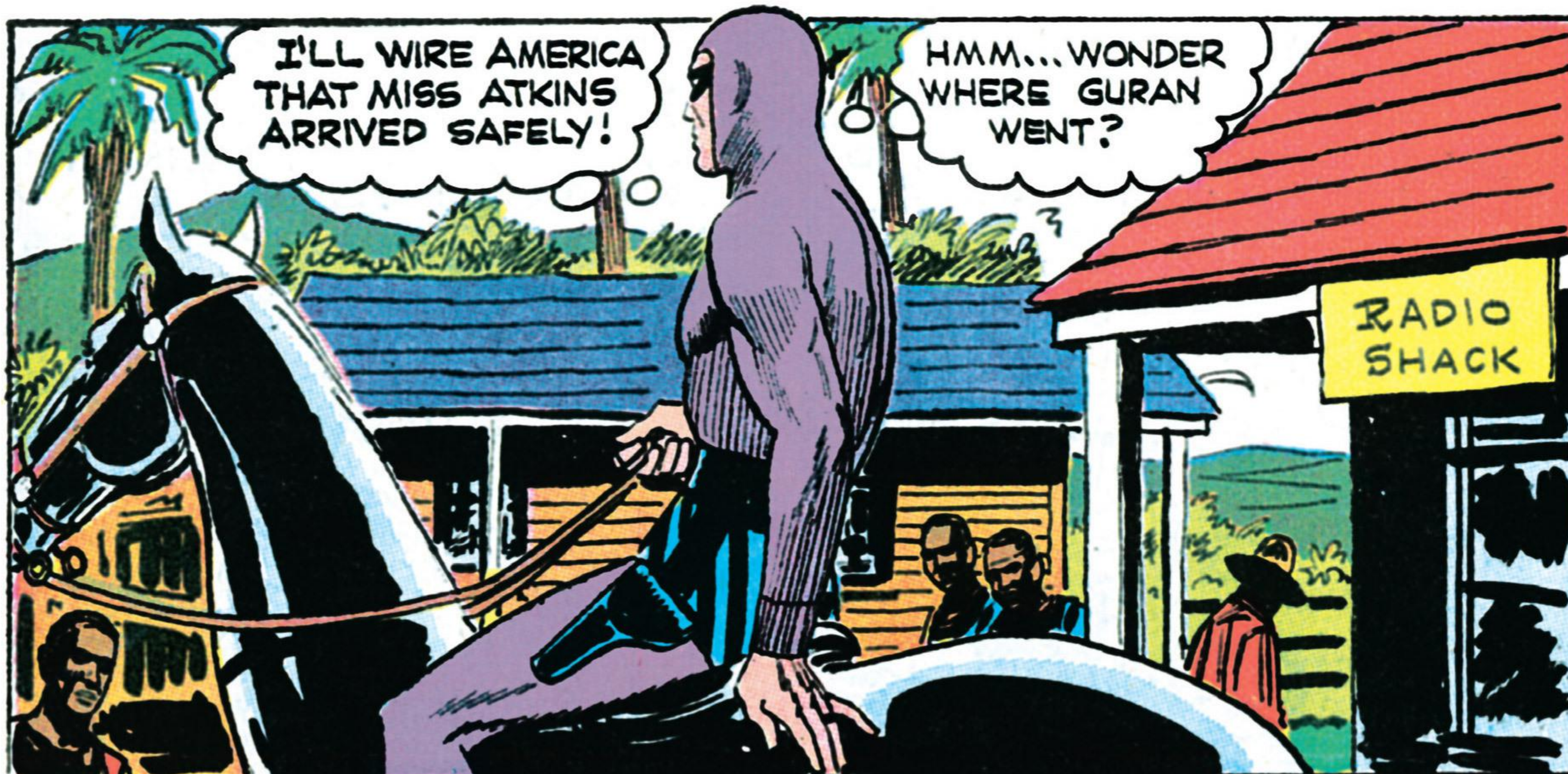
**"SUDDENLY, A RAIN OF ARROWS FELL ON US..."**

















THE PHANTOM PLUMMETS FROM THE SADDLE AS HOT LEAD CUTS THE AIR...

THOSE ROCKS!  
GOT TO TAKE COVER  
BEHIND THEM...  
QUICK!

**BAM!**  
**BAM!**



THEY'RE KIDNAPPING GURAN... GOT TO FIGURE SOME WAY TO GET PAST THIS ONE! BEFORE THE OTHERS GET GURAN INTO THAT BOAT AND OUT OF REACH — BUT HOW?



GHOST WHO WALKS... MAN WHO CAN'T DIE... HAH-HA! WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT SOON AS HE STICKS HIS HEAD OUT FROM BEHIND THOSE, HAH-HA... ROCKS!

**POW!**  
**BANG!**

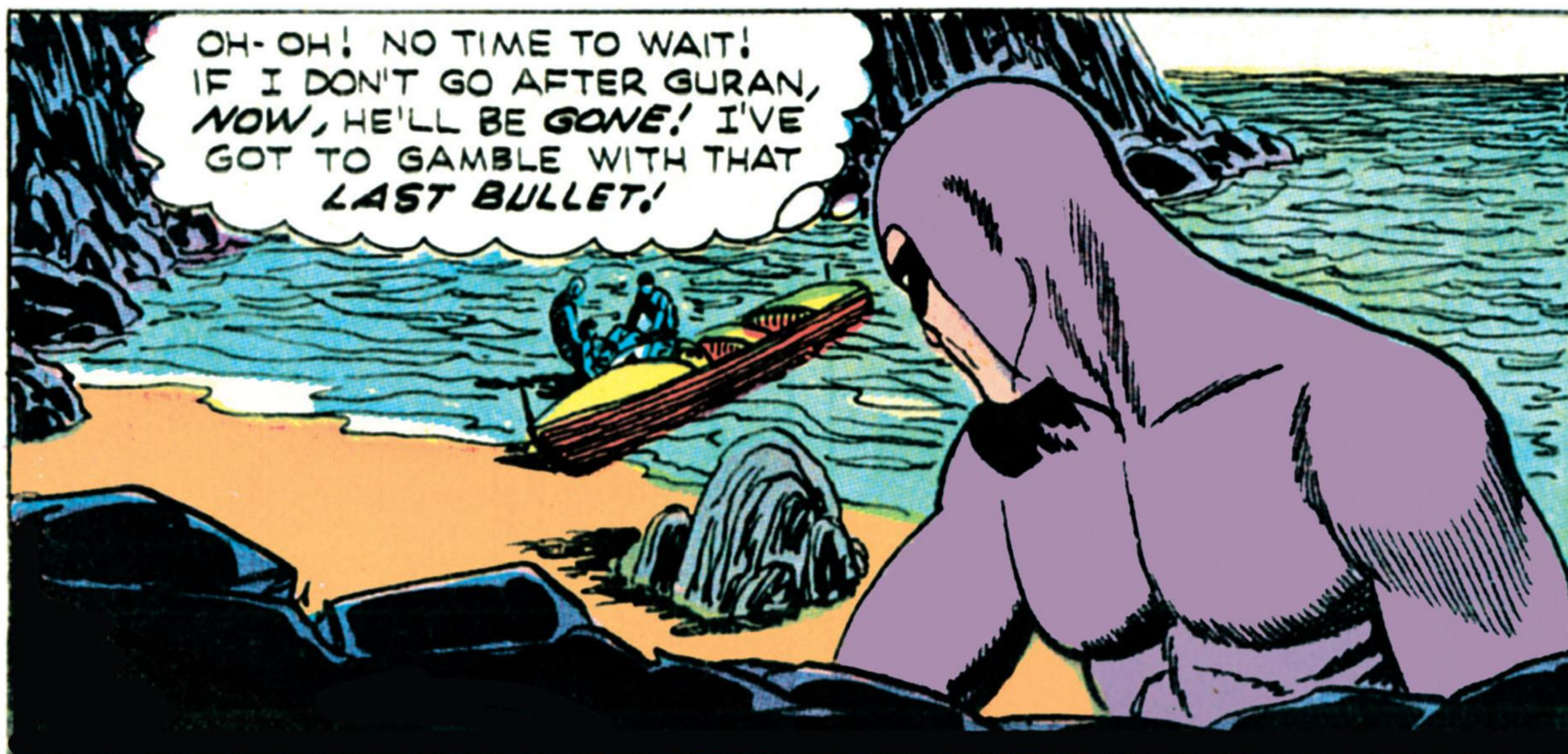
DIDN'T  
SEE ME  
CIRCLE  
AROUND!



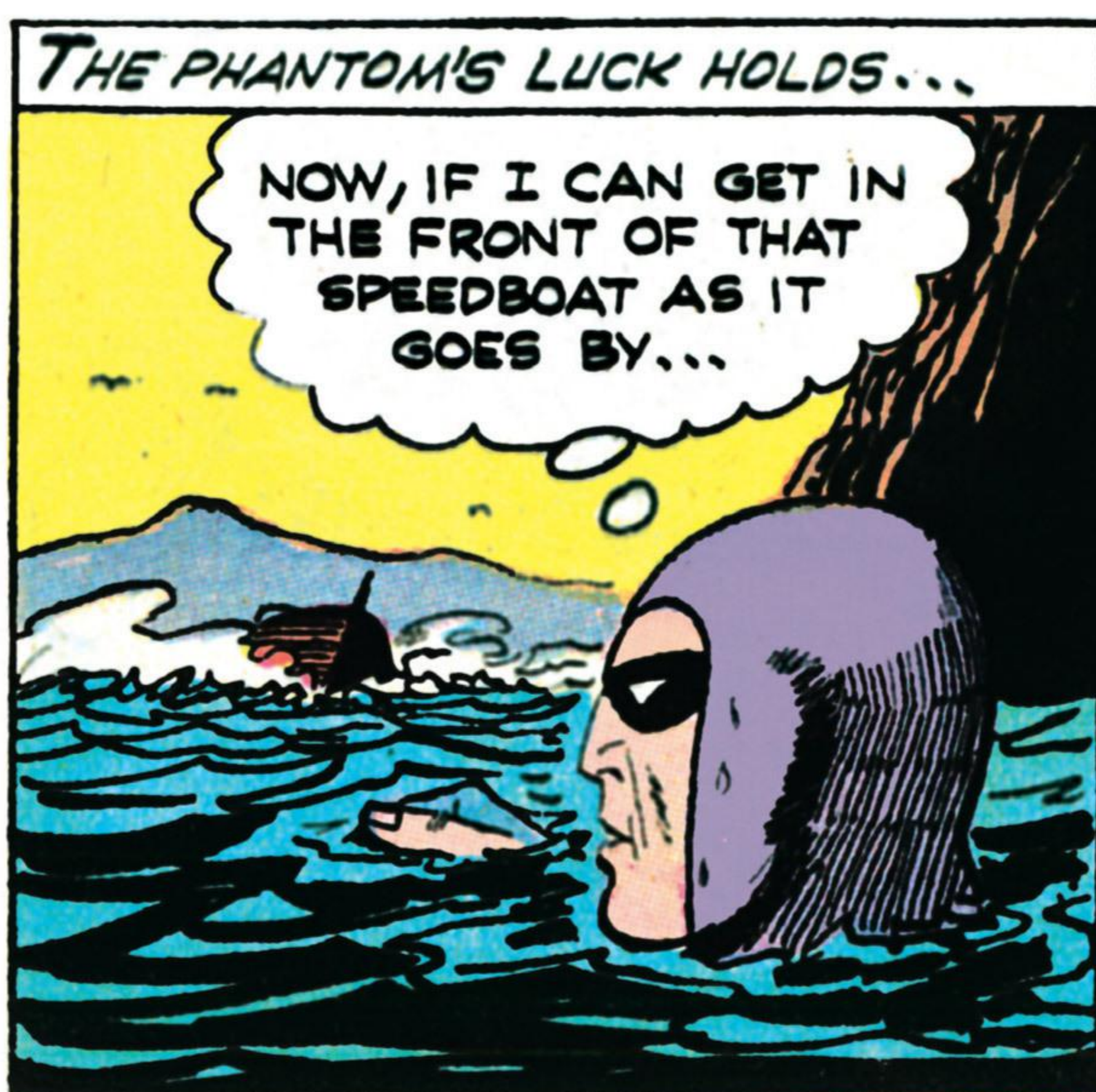
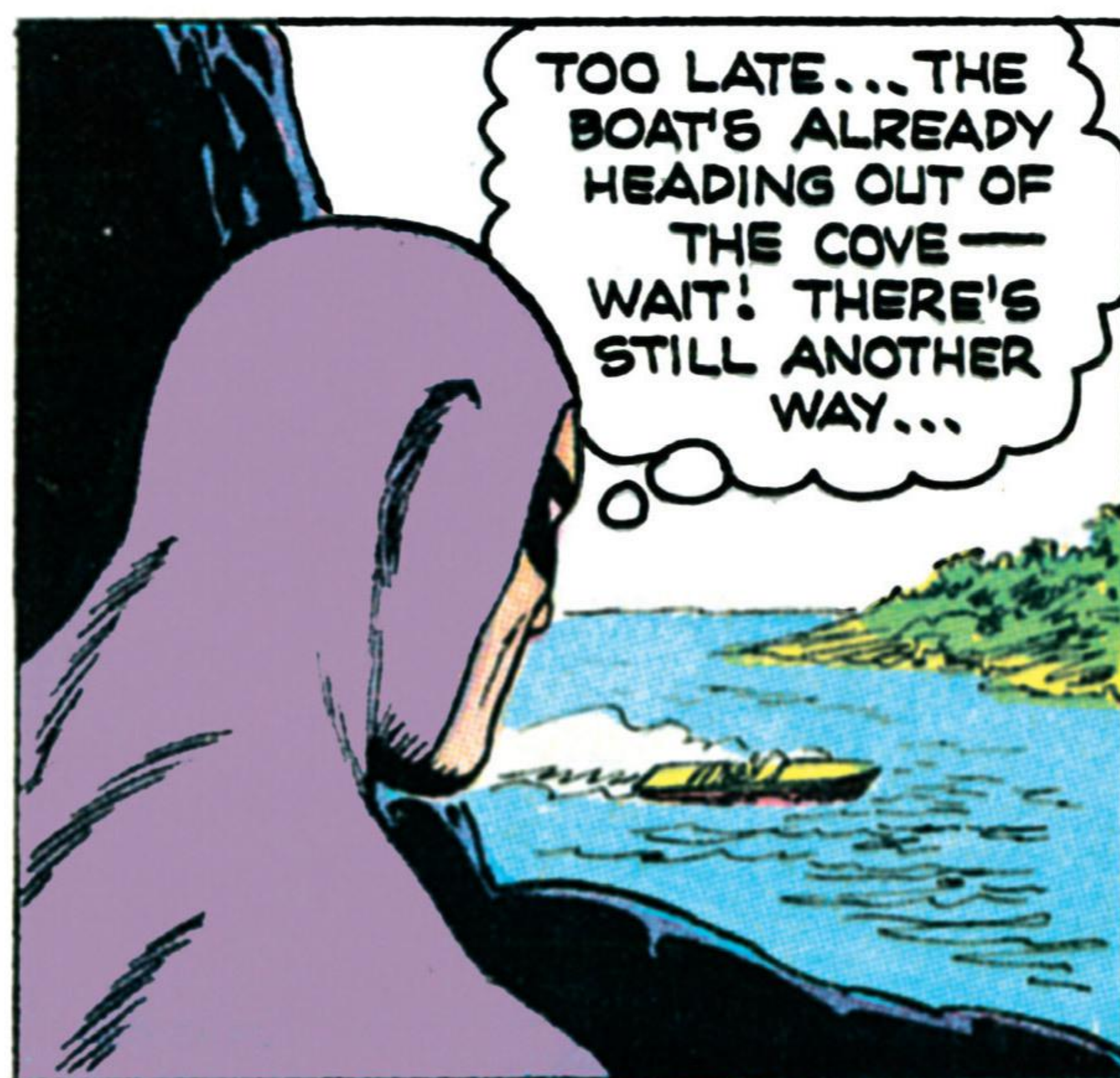
HE'S GOT ONE MORE BULLET LEFT! I'LL HAVE TO WAIT HIM OUT...



OH-OH! NO TIME TO WAIT!  
IF I DON'T GO AFTER GURAN,  
*NOW*, HE'LL BE *GONE*! I'VE  
GOT TO GAMBLE WITH THAT  
*LAST BULLET*!



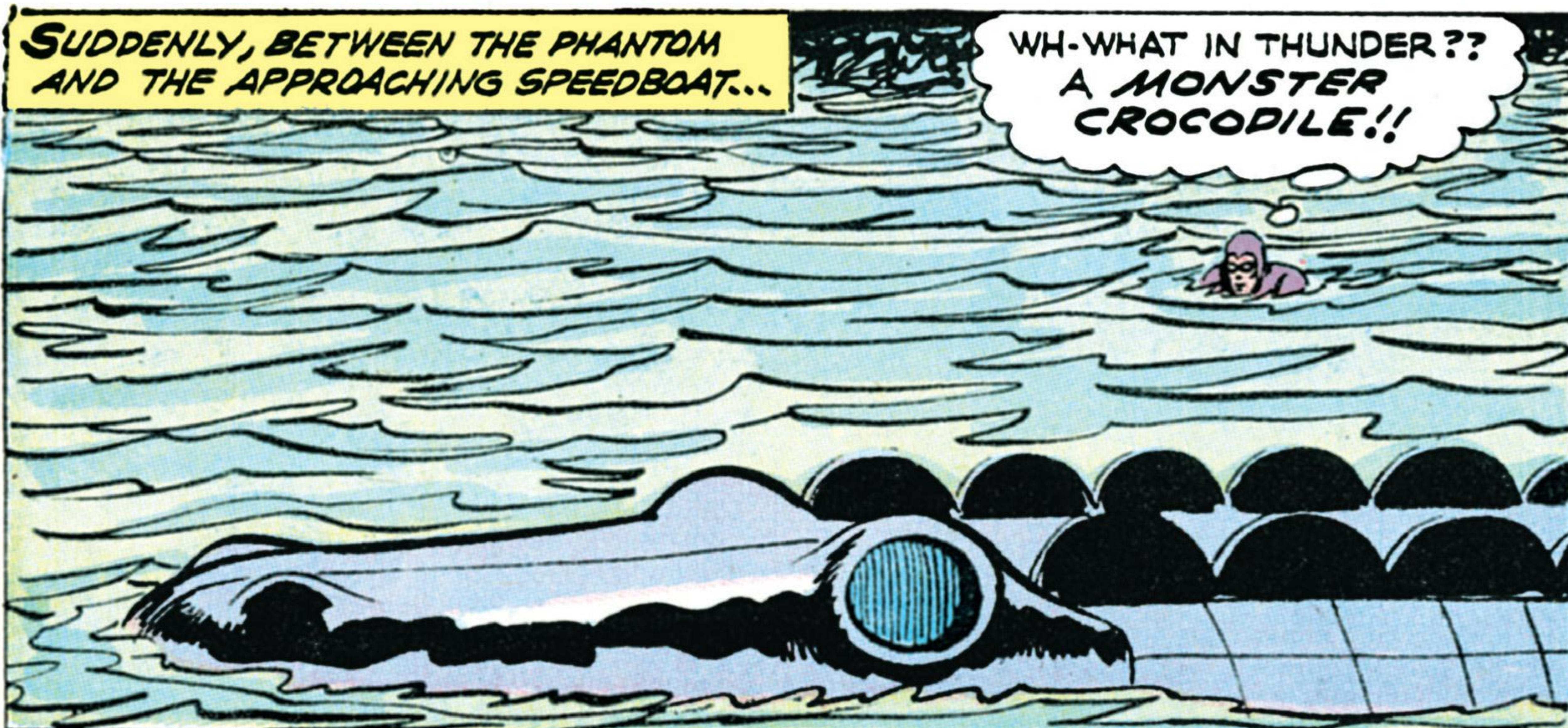




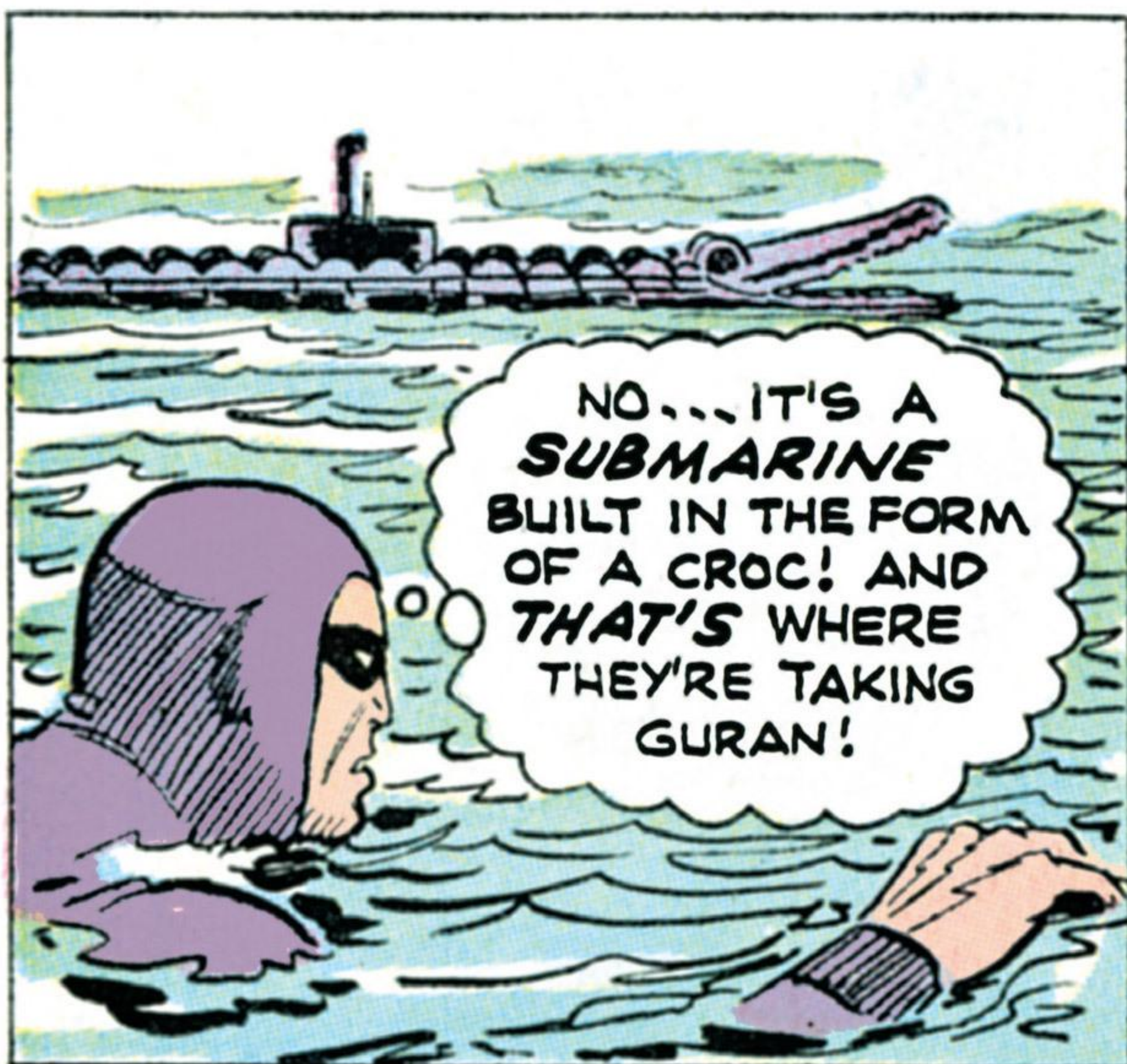


**SUDDENLY, BETWEEN THE PHANTOM  
AND THE APPROACHING SPEEDBOAT...**

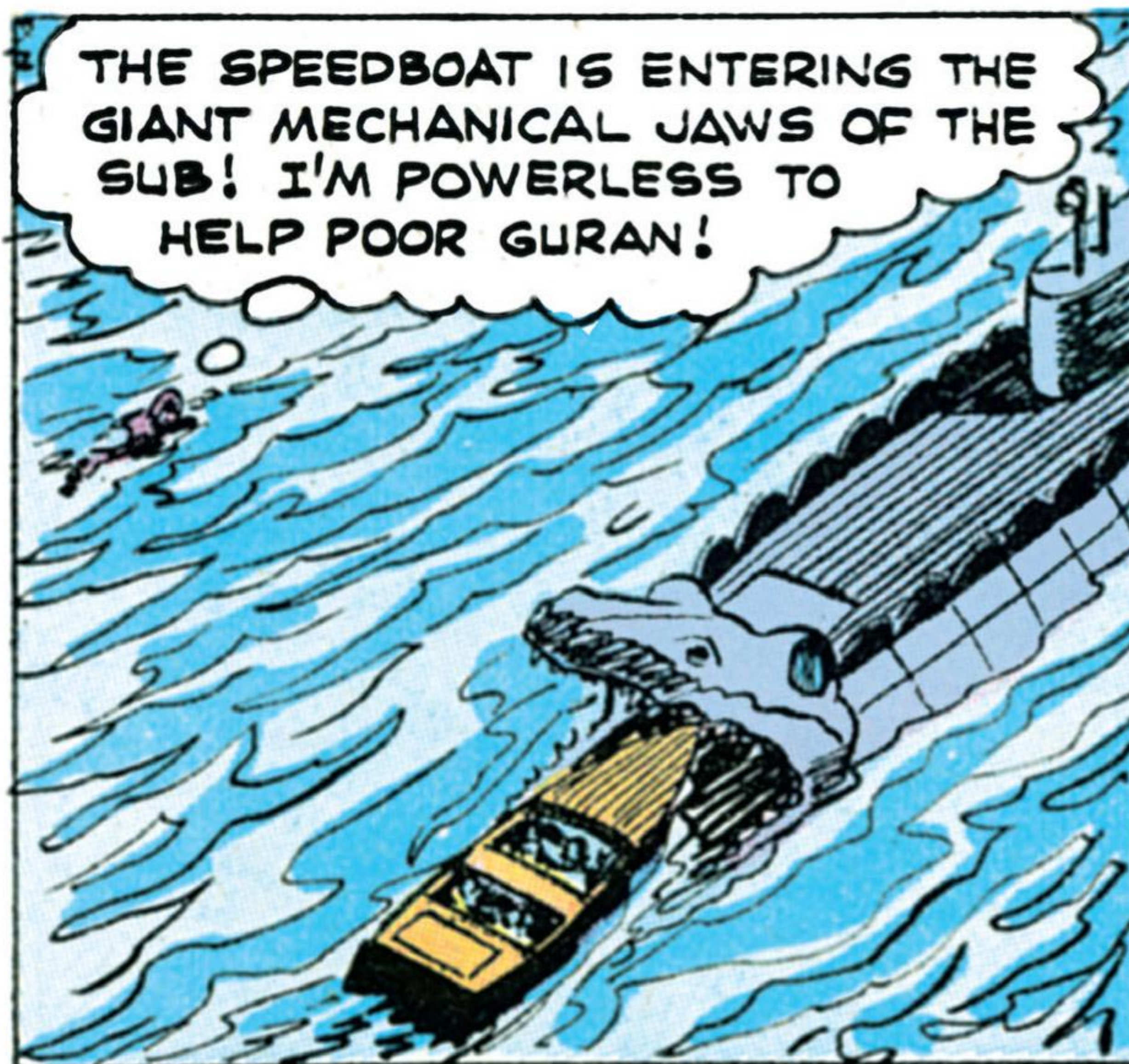
WH-WHAT IN THUNDER??  
**A MONSTER  
CROCODILE!!**



NO... IT'S A  
**SUBMARINE**  
BUILT IN THE FORM  
OF A CROC! AND  
**THAT'S** WHERE  
THEY'RE TAKING  
GURAN!



THE SPEEDBOAT IS ENTERING THE  
GIANT MECHANICAL JAWS OF THE  
SUB! I'M POWERLESS TO  
HELP POOR GURAN!



IT'S HEADING TOWARD  
THE SHORE... THE  
**WAMBESI**! AND THEIR  
WAR CANOES... IT'S MY  
ONLY CHANCE TO  
SAVE GURAN!



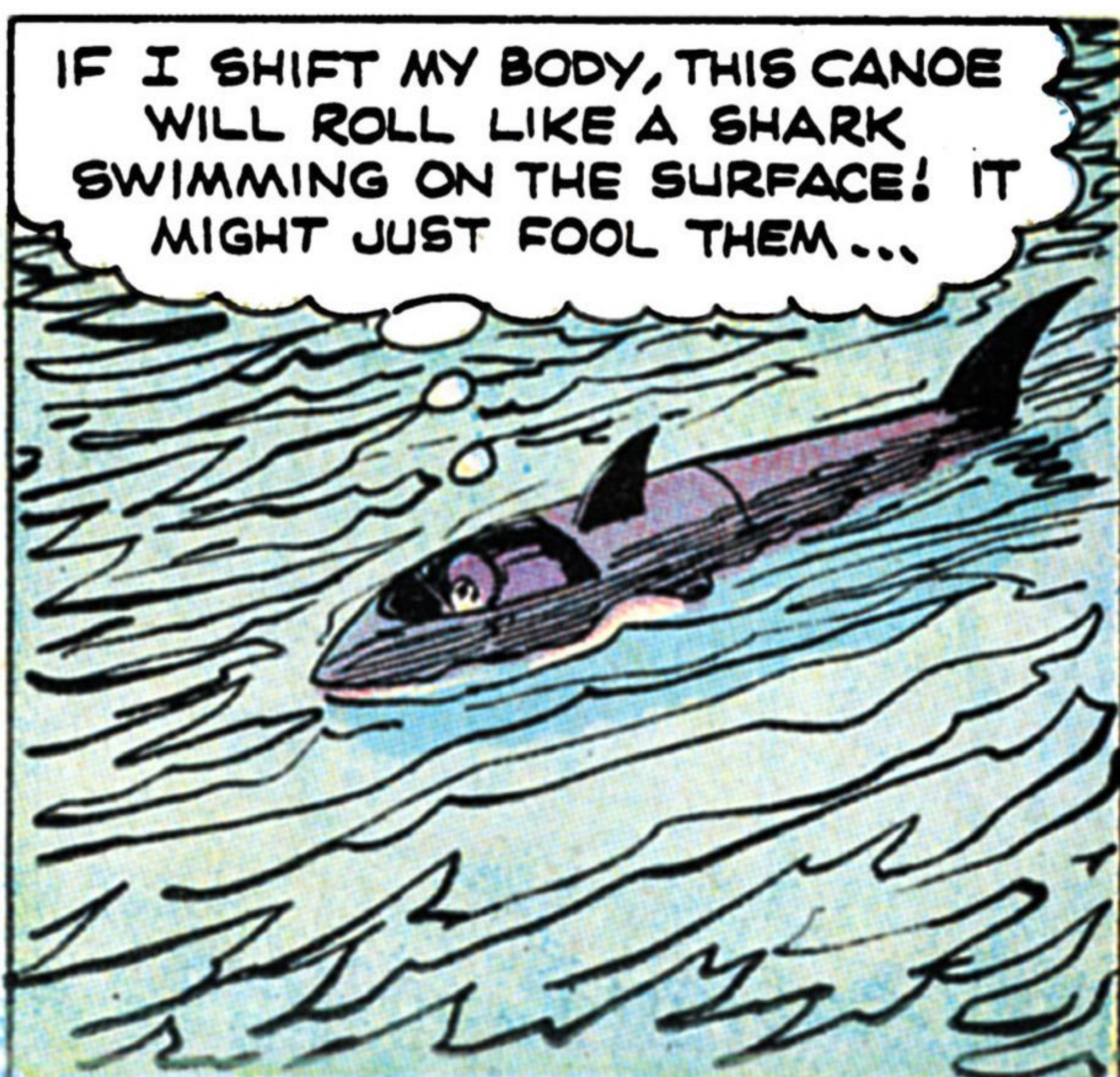
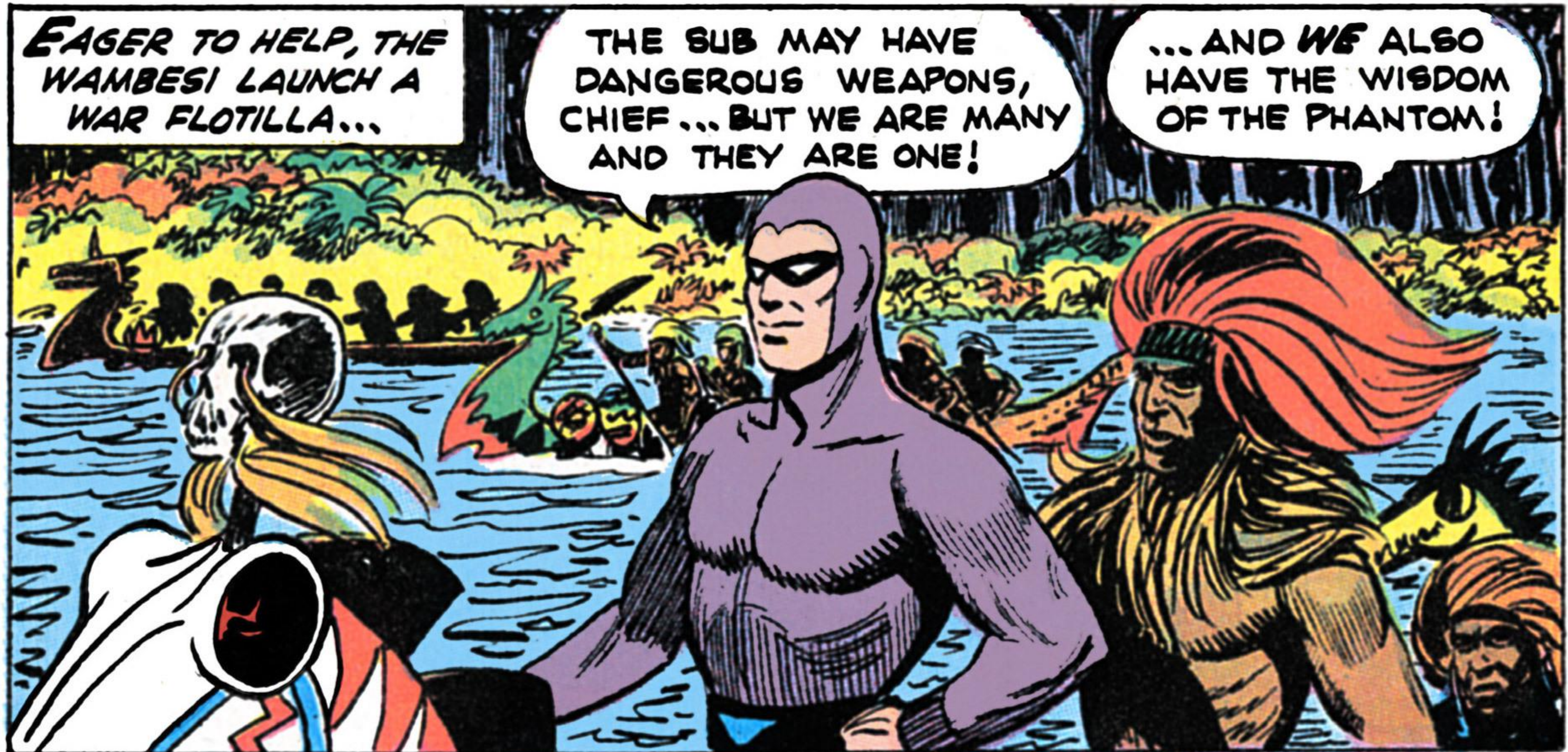
**SOON JUNGLE DRUMS RING OUT...**

**WAMBESI... COME  
TO MOON INLET...  
BRING WAR CANOES...  
PHANTOM—**

POOR  
GURAN!









THE PHANTOM  
PART 2

# THE SMILE OF DEATH

IN AN OVERTURNED CANOE, THE PHANTOM TRIES TO CLOSE IN ON A STRANGE SUBMARINE WHERE GURAN IS HELD CAPTIVE!

WHAT'S THAT OUT THERE?

ALL I NEED IS A LITTLE LUCK AND I'LL BE CLOSE ENOUGH TO ATTEMPT TO RESCUE GURAN!

SO YOU'RE THE PHANTOM'S NATIVE PAL, EH, GURAN! WELL, YOU TWO WILL SOON BE MORTAL ENEMIES! YESSIREE! HAH-HA!

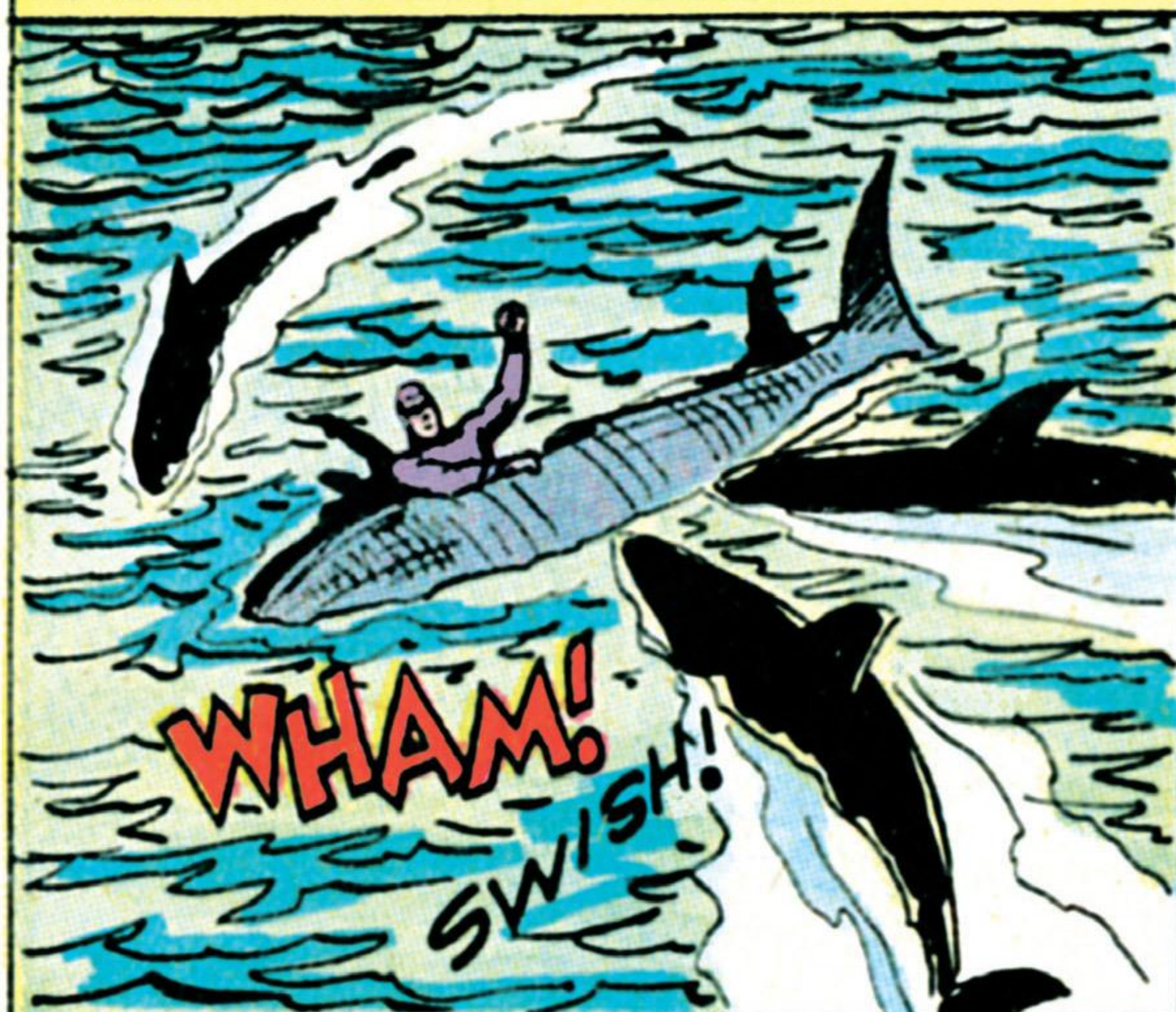
HEY! HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT, DAVOT... THERE'S A GIANT SHARK WALLOWING THROUGH THE WATER DEAD AHEAD... COME SEE!

ALMOST THERE! IF I CAN GLIP OVER THE SIDE AND GET ABOARD BEFORE THEY SEE ME ... WHA-?

SHARKS—  
HEADED  
THIS WAY!



**KNIFING THROUGH THE WATER, THE RAZOR-TOOTHED SHARKS ATTACK...**



**...AND ON THE DECK OF THE SUB...**



**WOW! THAT'LL SOLVE OUR PROBLEM, DAVOT! WHEN THE SHARKS KNOCK THE PHANTOM OFF, WE'LL MAKE HIS NATIVE PAL LEAD US TO THEIR HIDEOUT!**

**FORGET IT...**



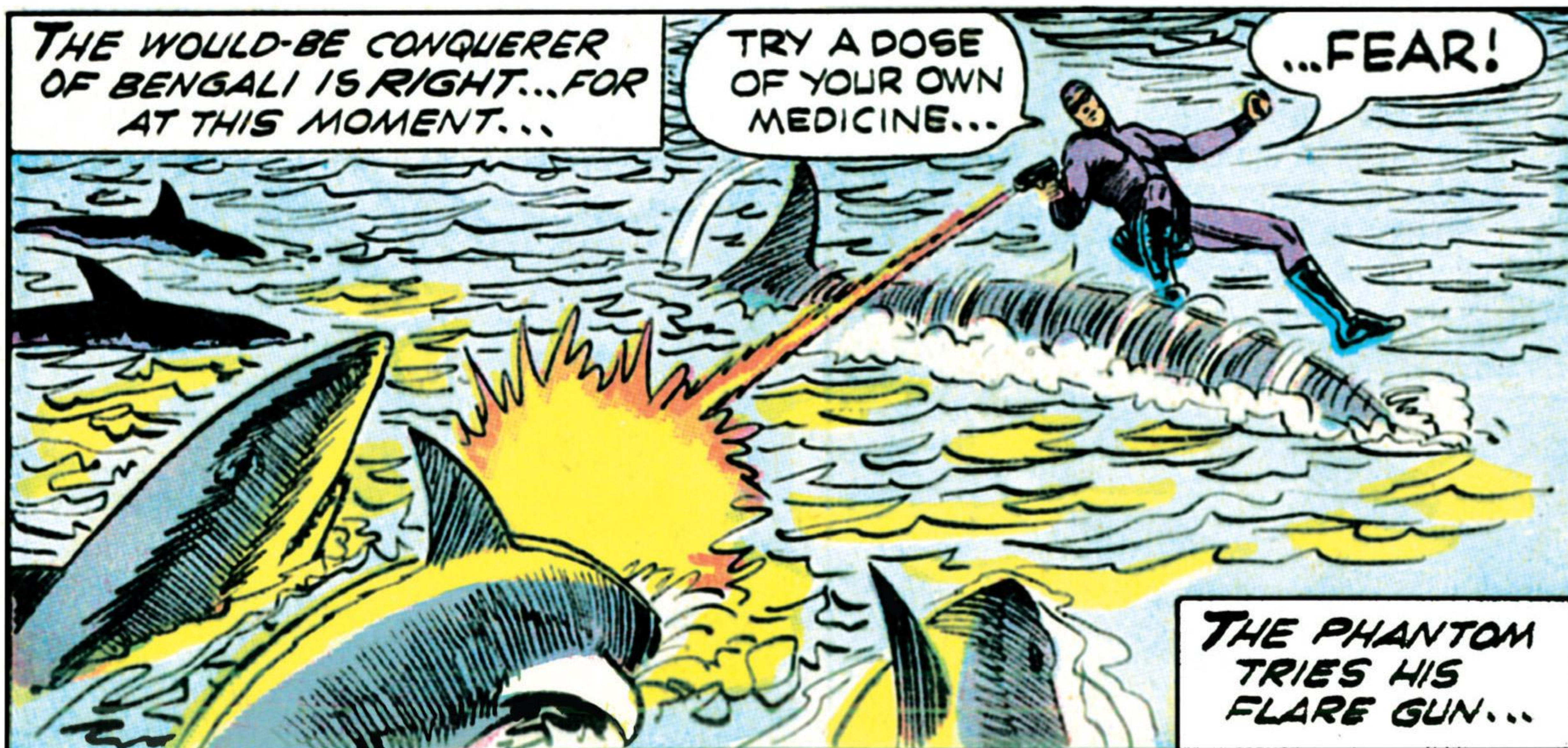
**THE PHANTOM'S BEEN OUTWITTING KILLER FISH SINCE HE WAS A KID! HE'LL SCUTTLE THEIR SCALES SOMEHOW!... BETTER RADIO DEENA!**



**THE WOULD-BE CONQUERER OF BENGALI IS RIGHT...FOR AT THIS MOMENT...**

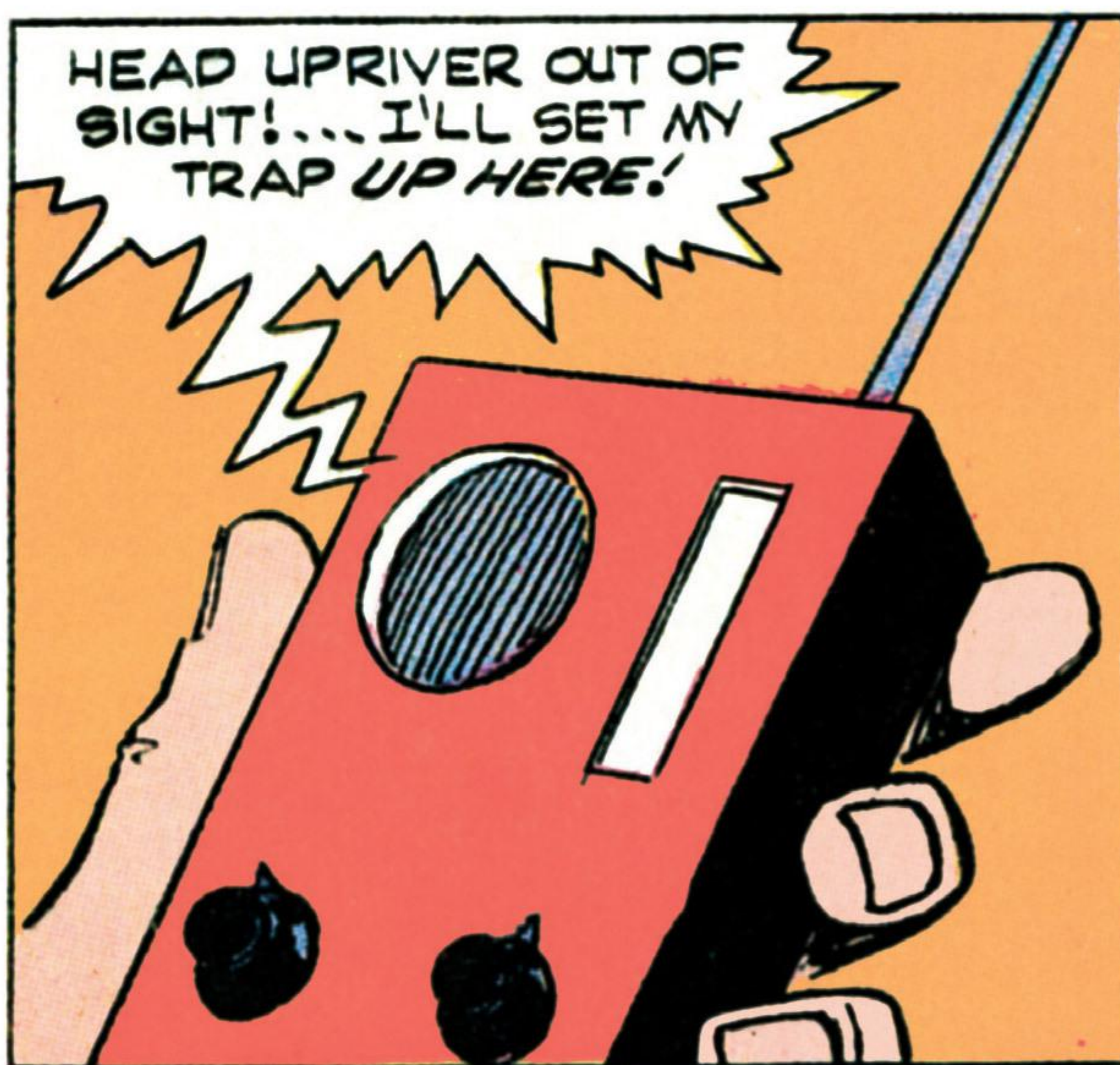
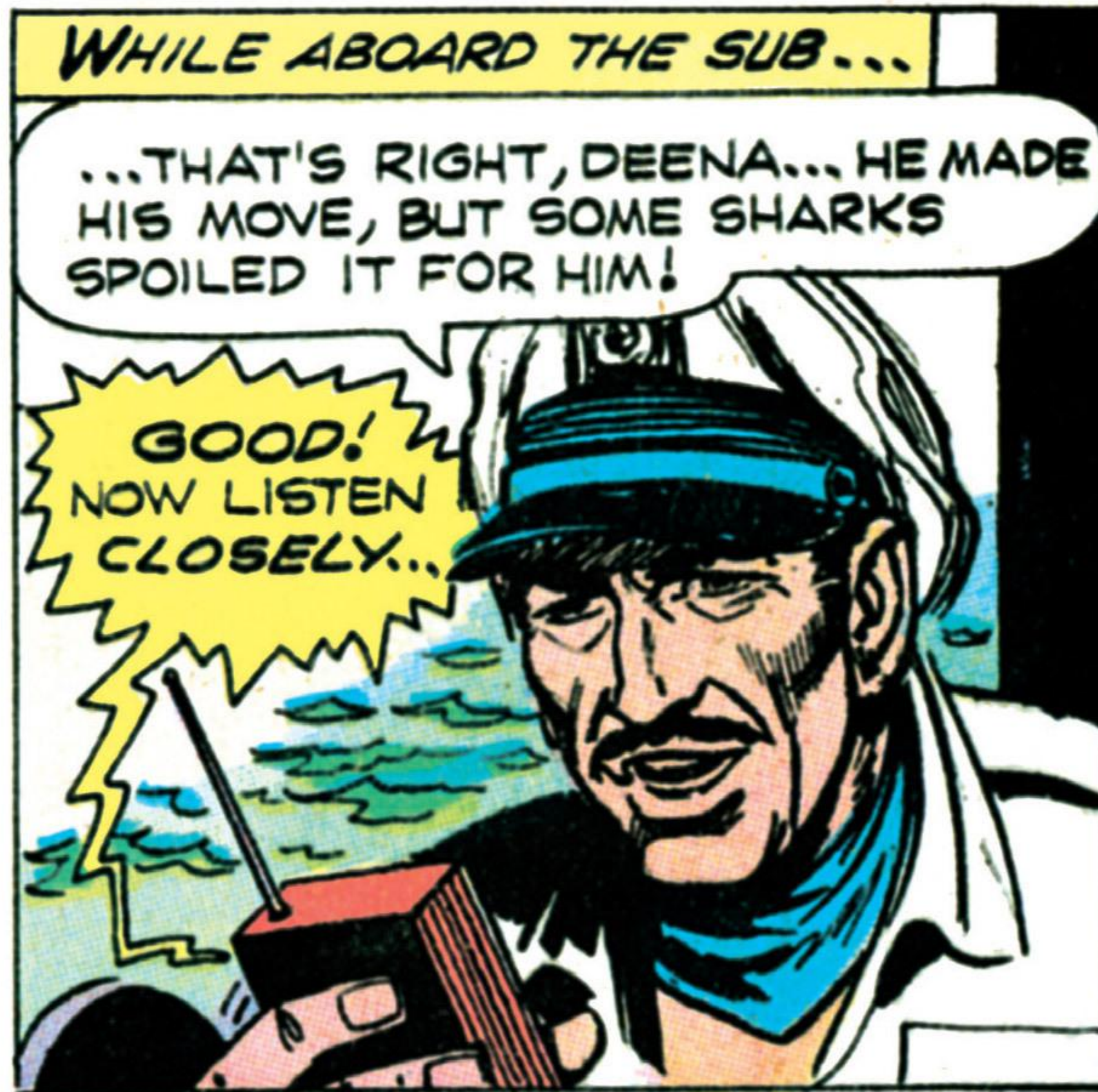
**TRY A DOSE OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE...**

**...FEAR!**



**THE PHANTOM TRIES HIS FLARE GUN...**







**FARTHER DOWNSTREAM, THE  
WAMBESI INVASION IS A FAILURE...**

**YOU DID YOUR BEST, CHIEF! NOW  
WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE A NEW PLAN!  
WE'LL MEET HERE TOMORROW WITH  
ALL THE CHIEFS!**



**MEANWHILE...**

**YOU MEN WASTE TIME!  
I SHALL *NEVER* HELP YOU  
HURT THE *GHOST WHO WALKS*!**



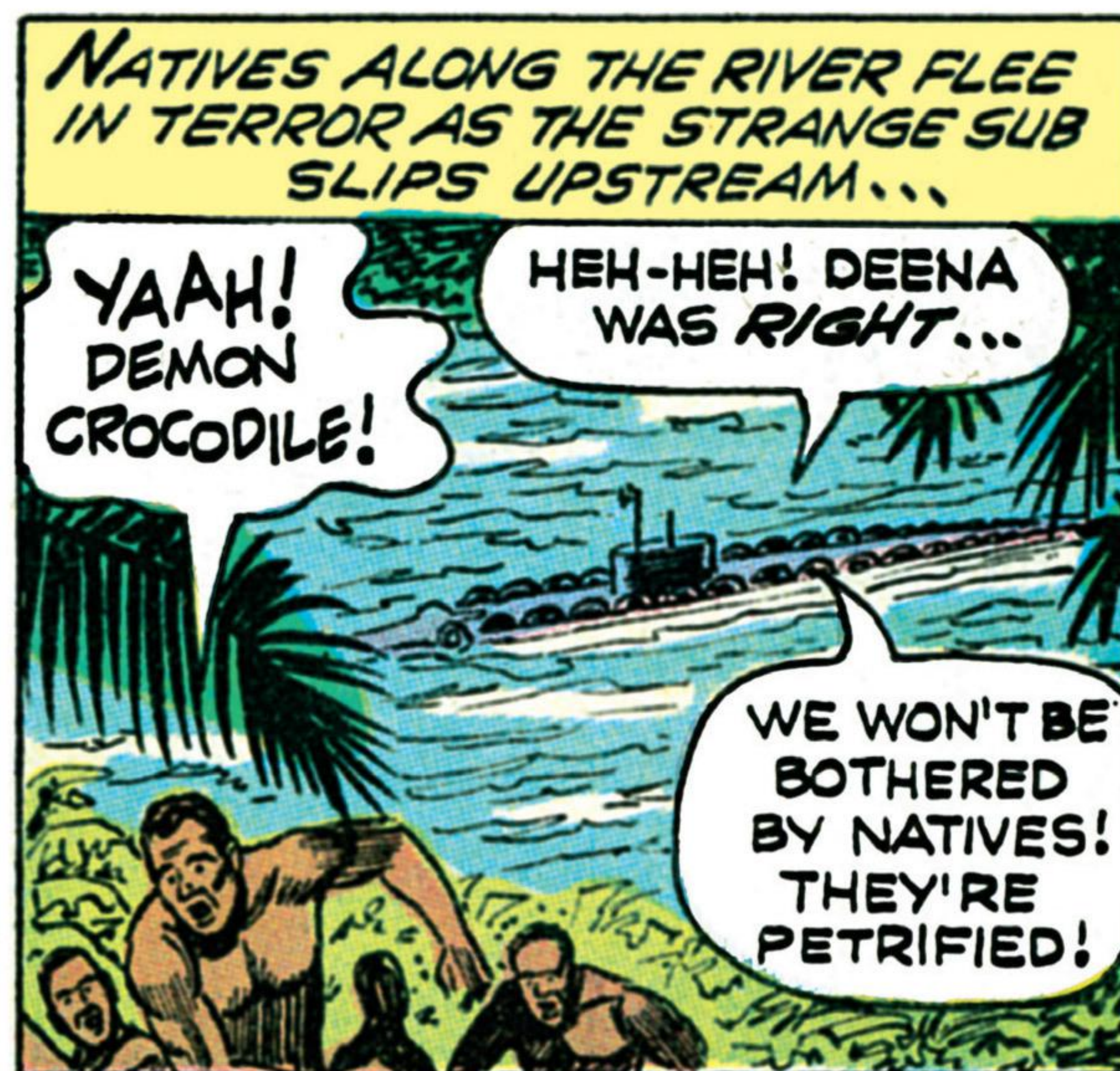
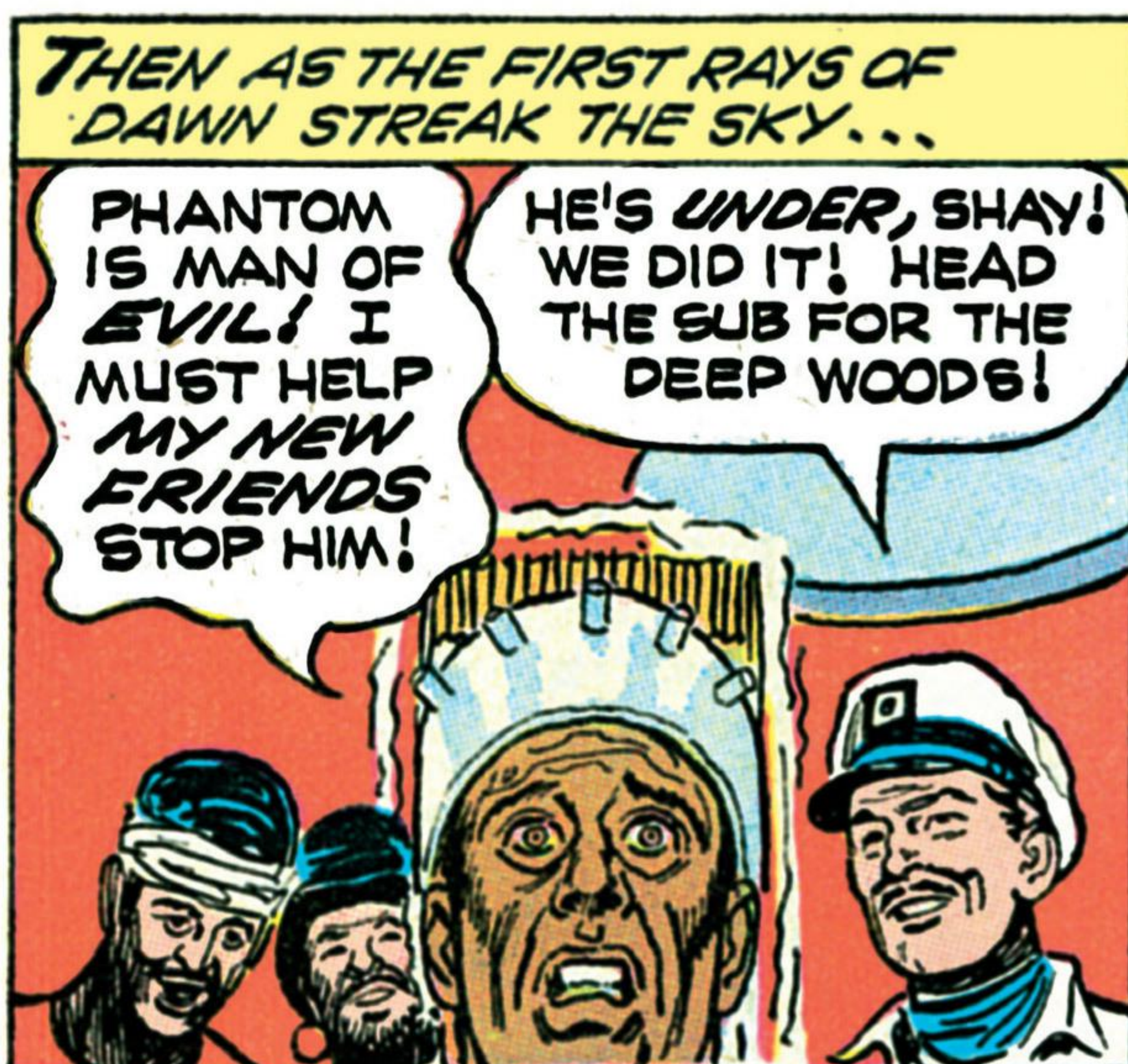
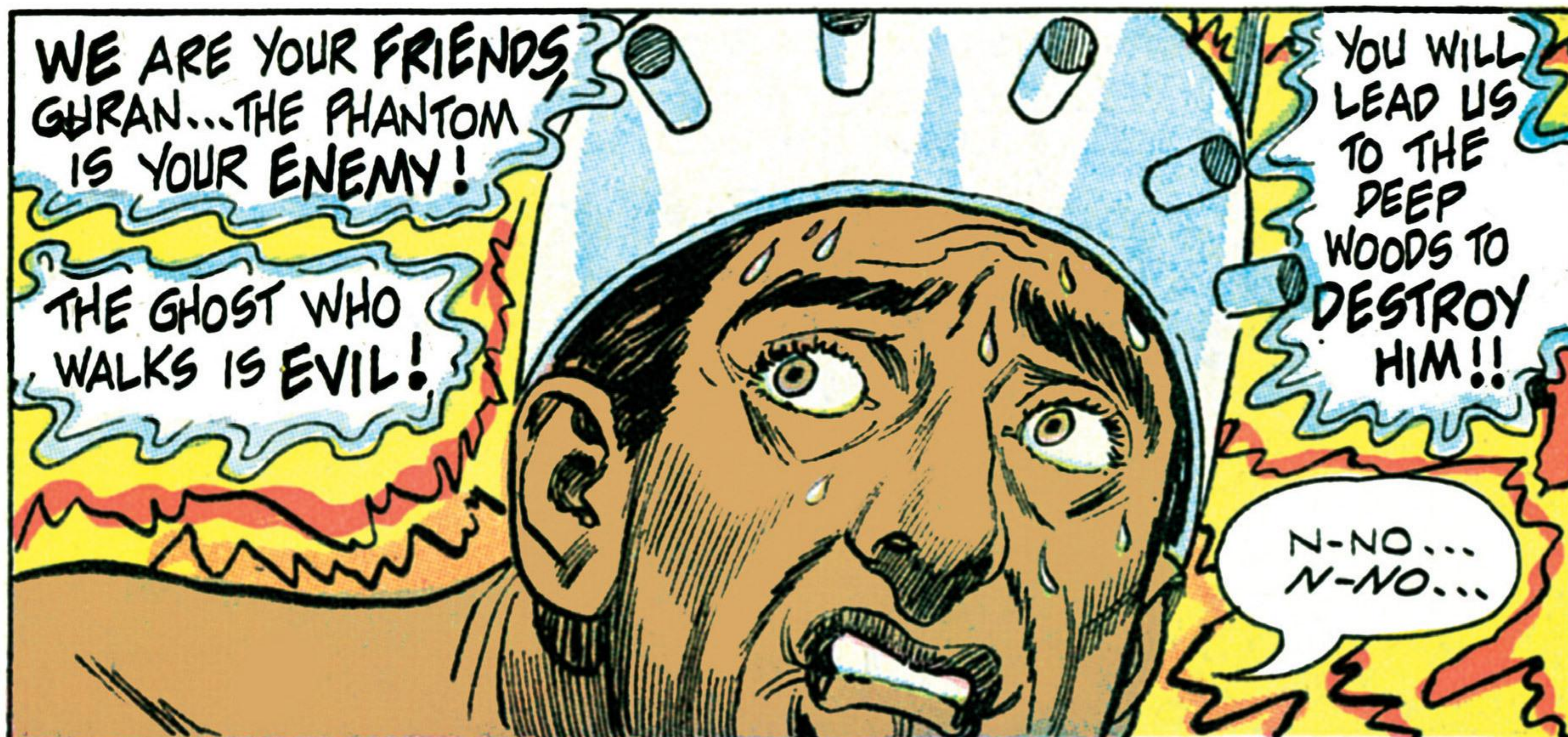
**YOUR PRECIOUS PHANTOM  
ISN'T THE *ONLY* SMART  
CHARACTER AROUND HERE!  
A FEW HOURS WITH THIS  
MACHINE AND YOU'LL  
BE BABBLING LIKE  
A BENGALI BABY!**



**LOOK  
AT US,  
GURAN...  
LISTEN  
TO US...**









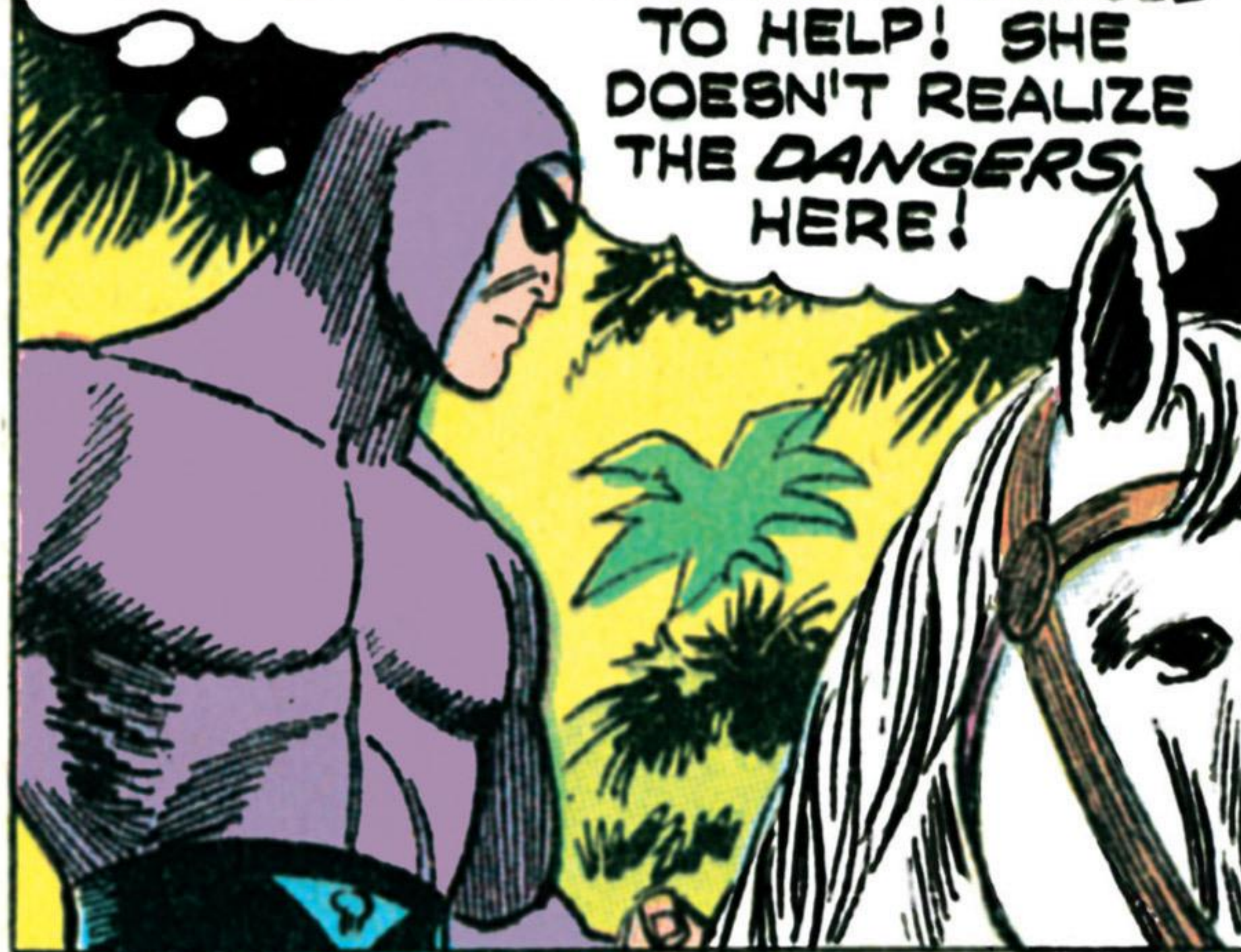
**FAR AHEAD OF THE PHANTOM, ON THE TRAIL TO THE DEEP WOODS...**

A CUB SCOUT COULD FOLLOW THE TRAIL I'M LEAVING! TRACK ME TO YOUR DOOM, GHOST WHO WALKS!



**AND TRACK, THE PHANTOM DOES...**

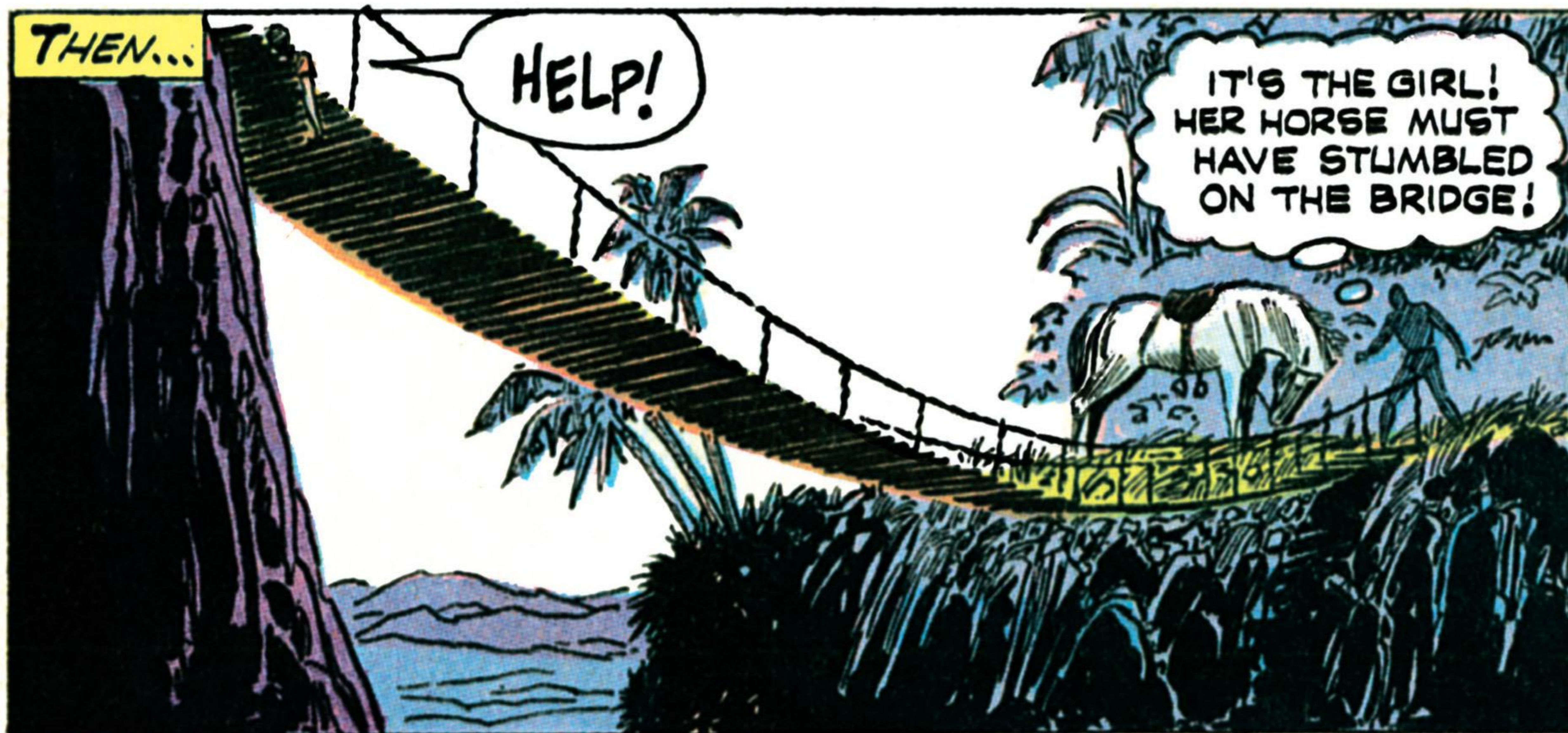
SHE'S RIDING TOWARD CANYON RAPIDS! POOR GIRL... SO ANXIOUS TO HELP! SHE DOESN'T REALIZE THE DANGERS HERE!



**THEN...**

HELP!

IT'S THE GIRL! HER HORSE MUST HAVE STUMBLERD ON THE BRIDGE!



KEEP CALM, MISS ATKINS! DON'T MOVE! I'M COMING!

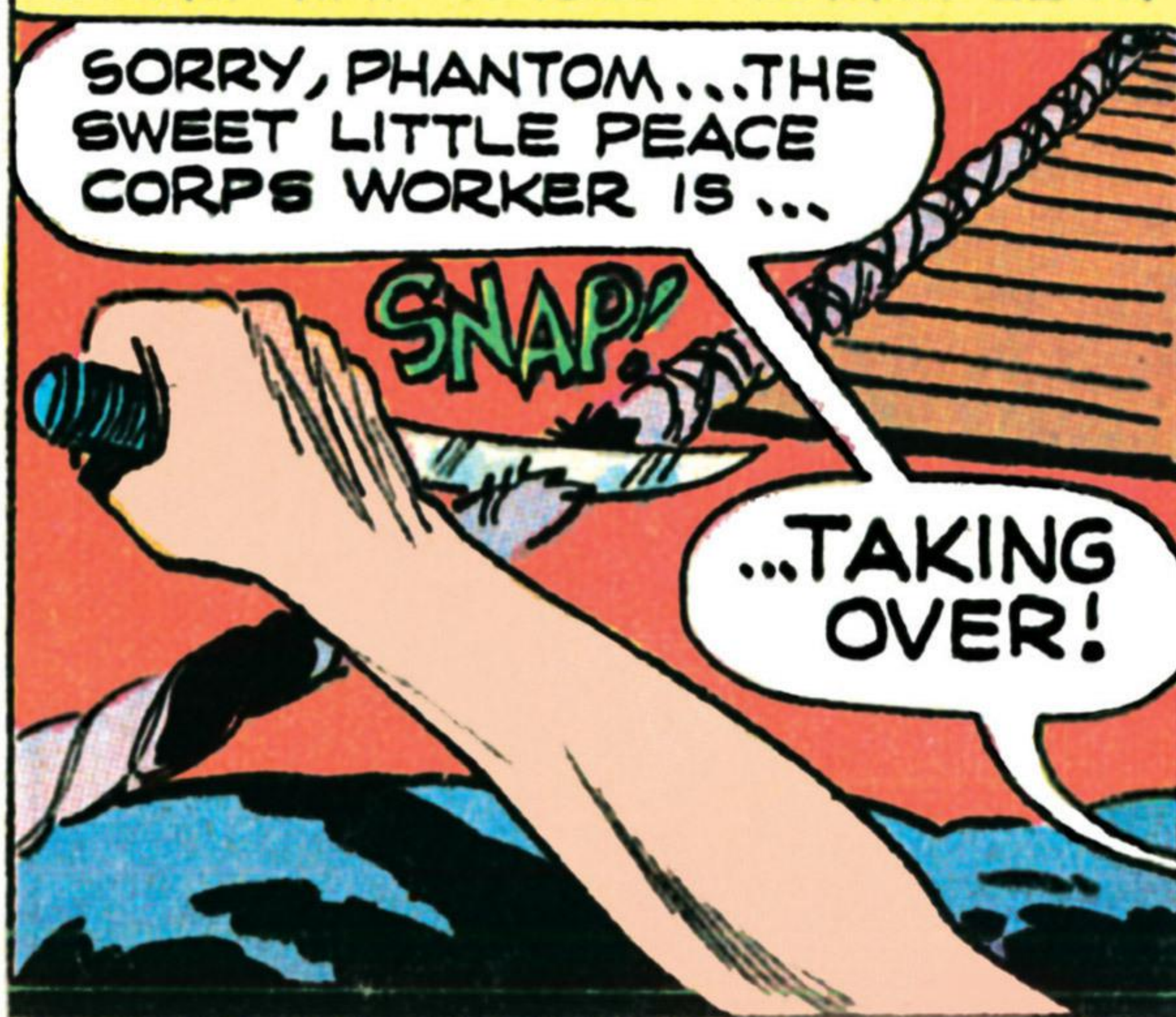


**BUT SUDDENLY, AS THE PHANTOM IS HALF-WAY ACROSS THE BRIDGE...**

SORRY, PHANTOM...THE SWEET LITTLE PEACE CORPS WORKER IS...

**SNAP!**

...TAKING OVER!





**THE ROPE SUPPORTS PART AND...**

**A-A TRAP!  
BUT WHY?**



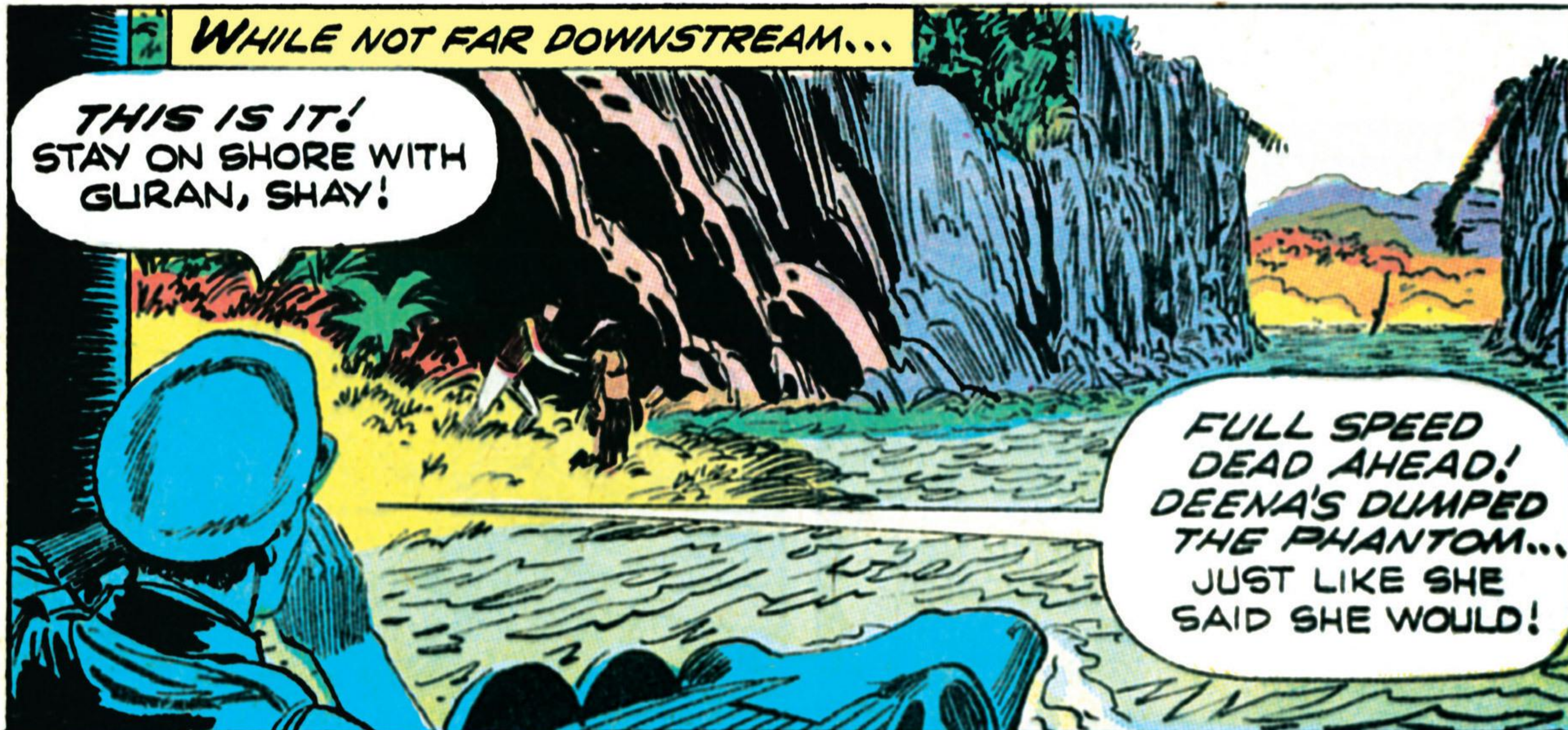
**DOWN, DOWN THE PHANTOM  
PLUMMETS HELPLESSLY...**

**A TWO-HUNDRED FOOT DROP UN-  
LESS I HIT THE WATER PERFECTLY,  
MY BACK WILL SNAP LIKE A  
MATCHSTICK!**



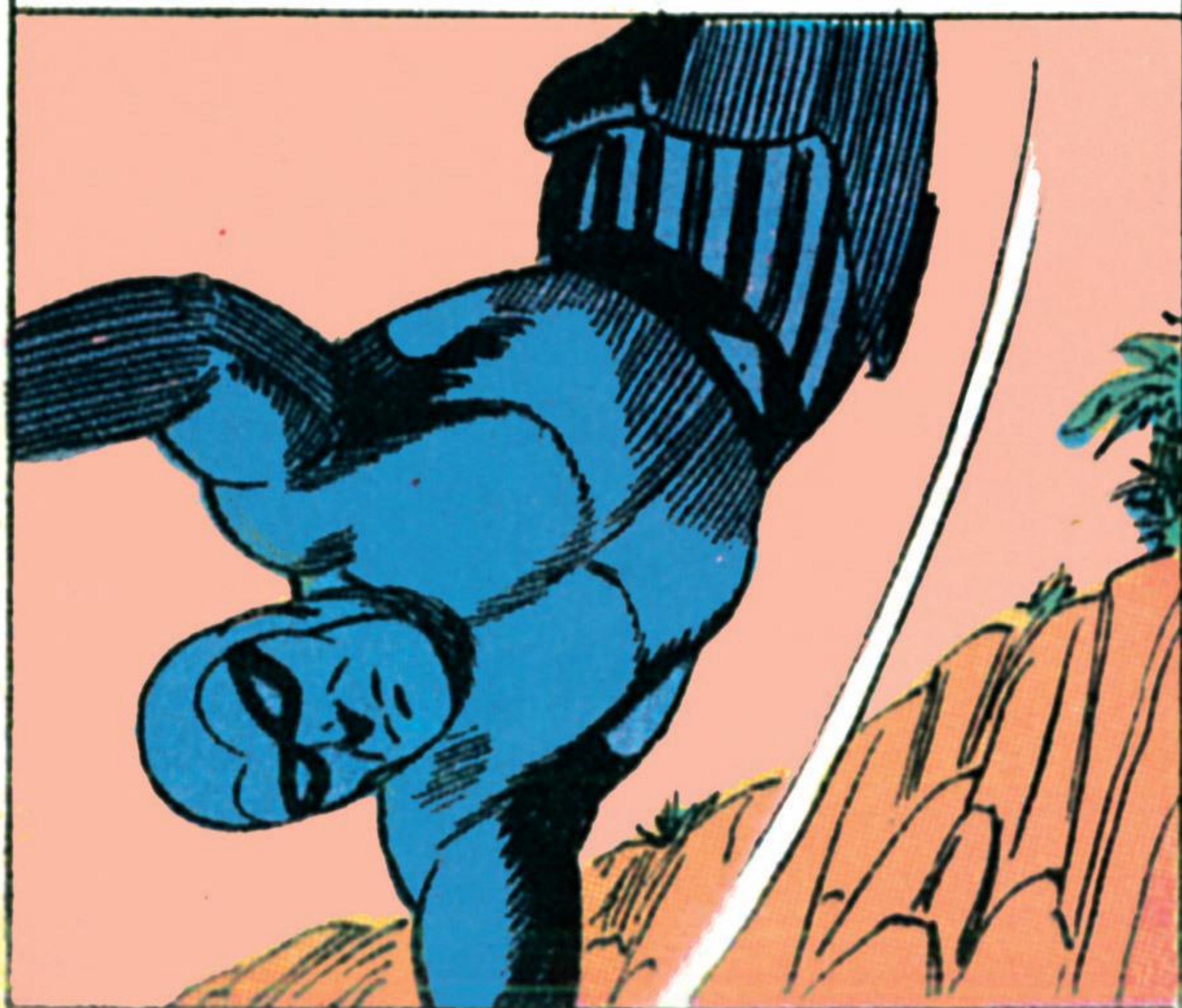
**WHILE NOT FAR DOWNSTREAM...**

**THIS IS IT!  
STAY ON SHORE WITH  
GURAN, SHAY!**



**FULL SPEED  
DEAD AHEAD!  
DEENA'S DUMPED  
THE PHANTOM...  
JUST LIKE SHE  
SAID SHE WOULD!**

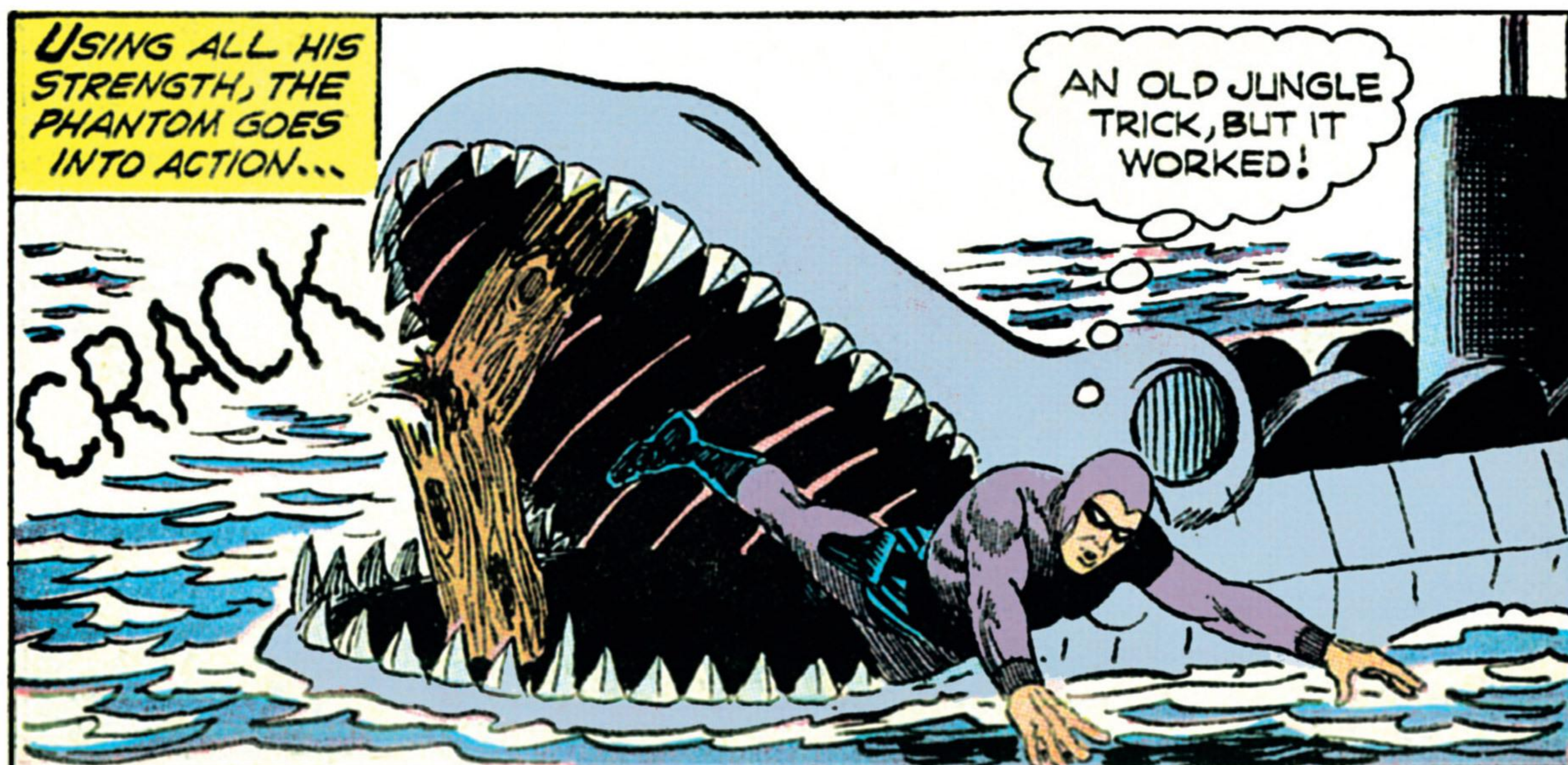
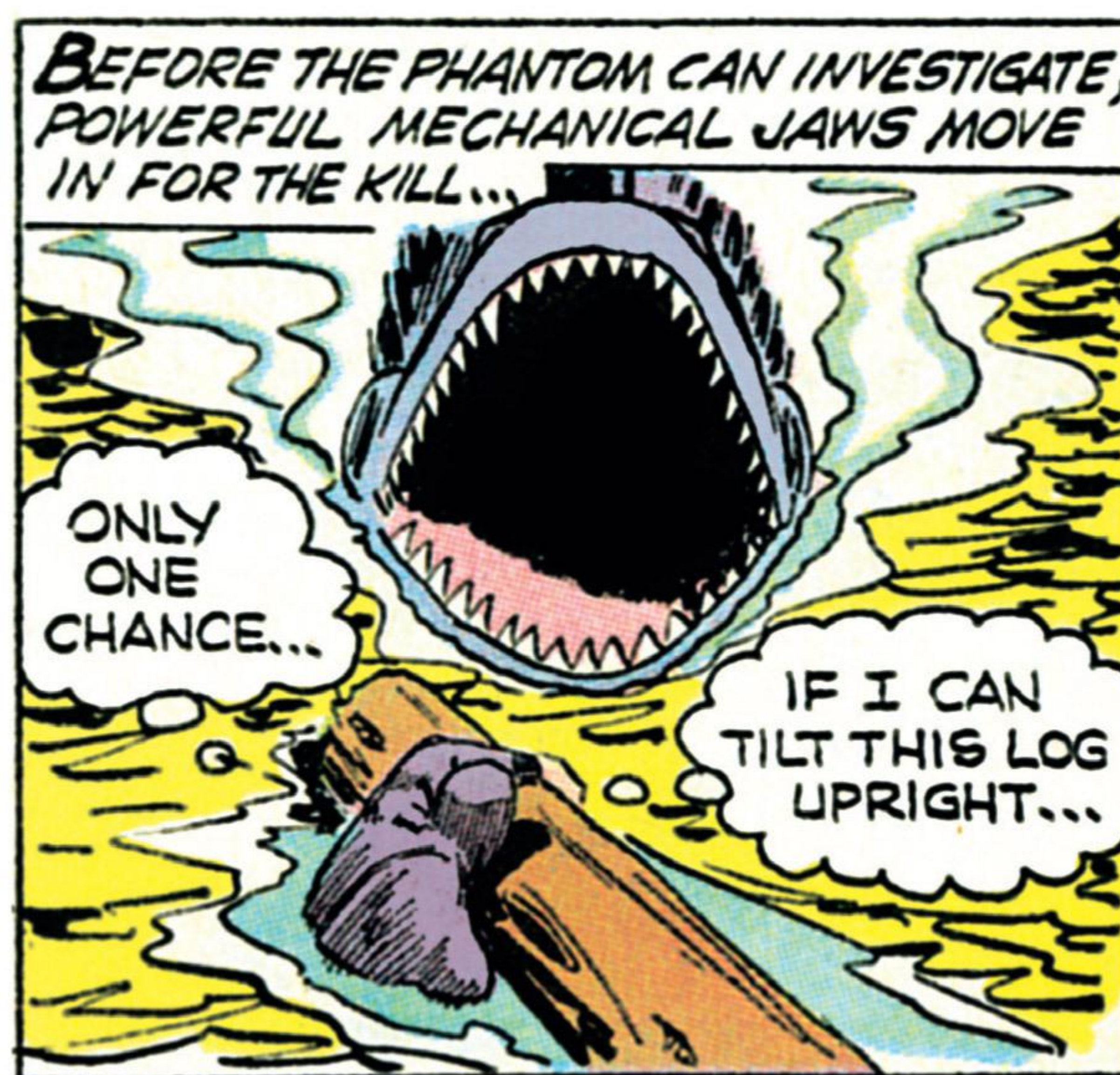
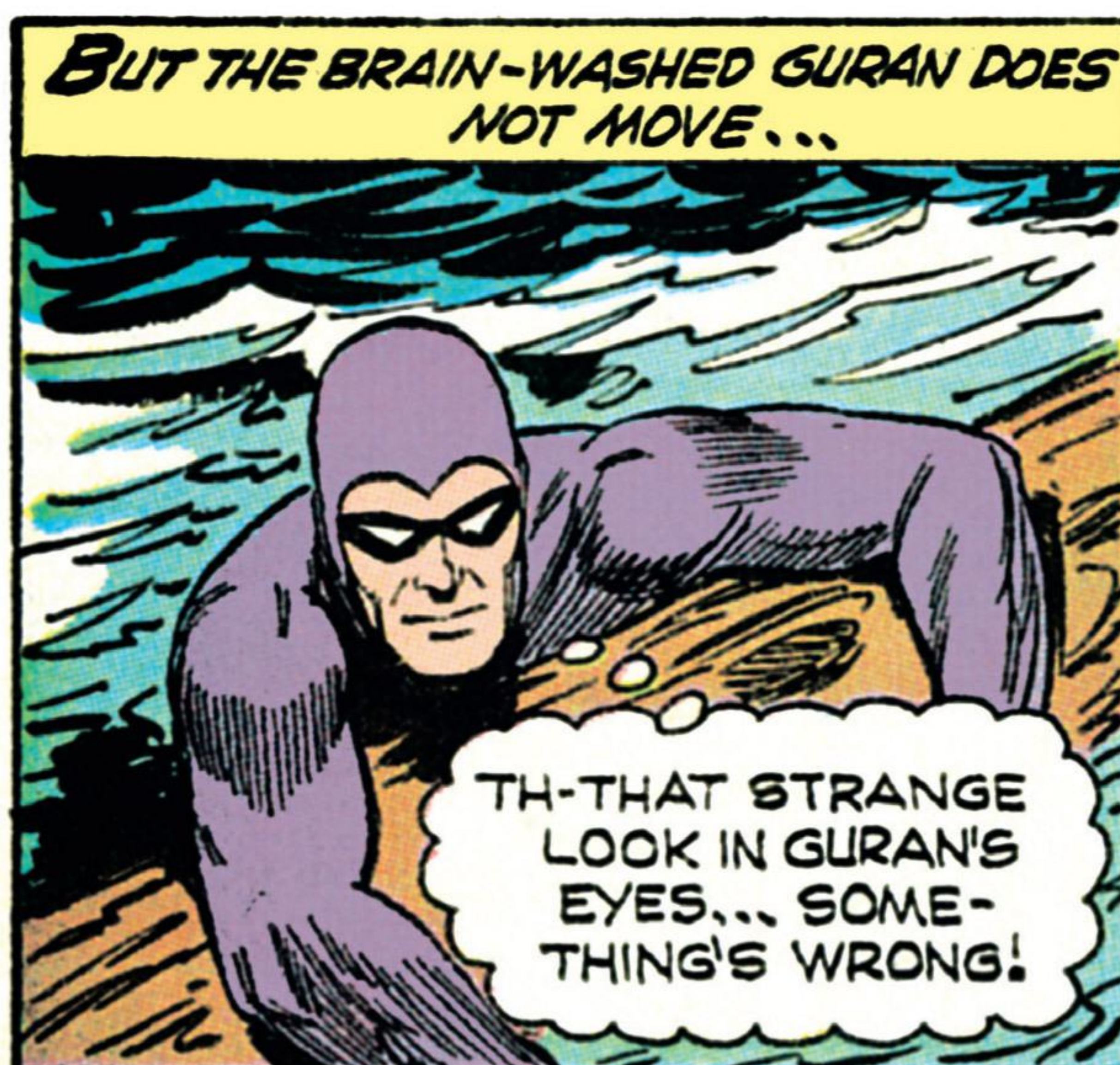
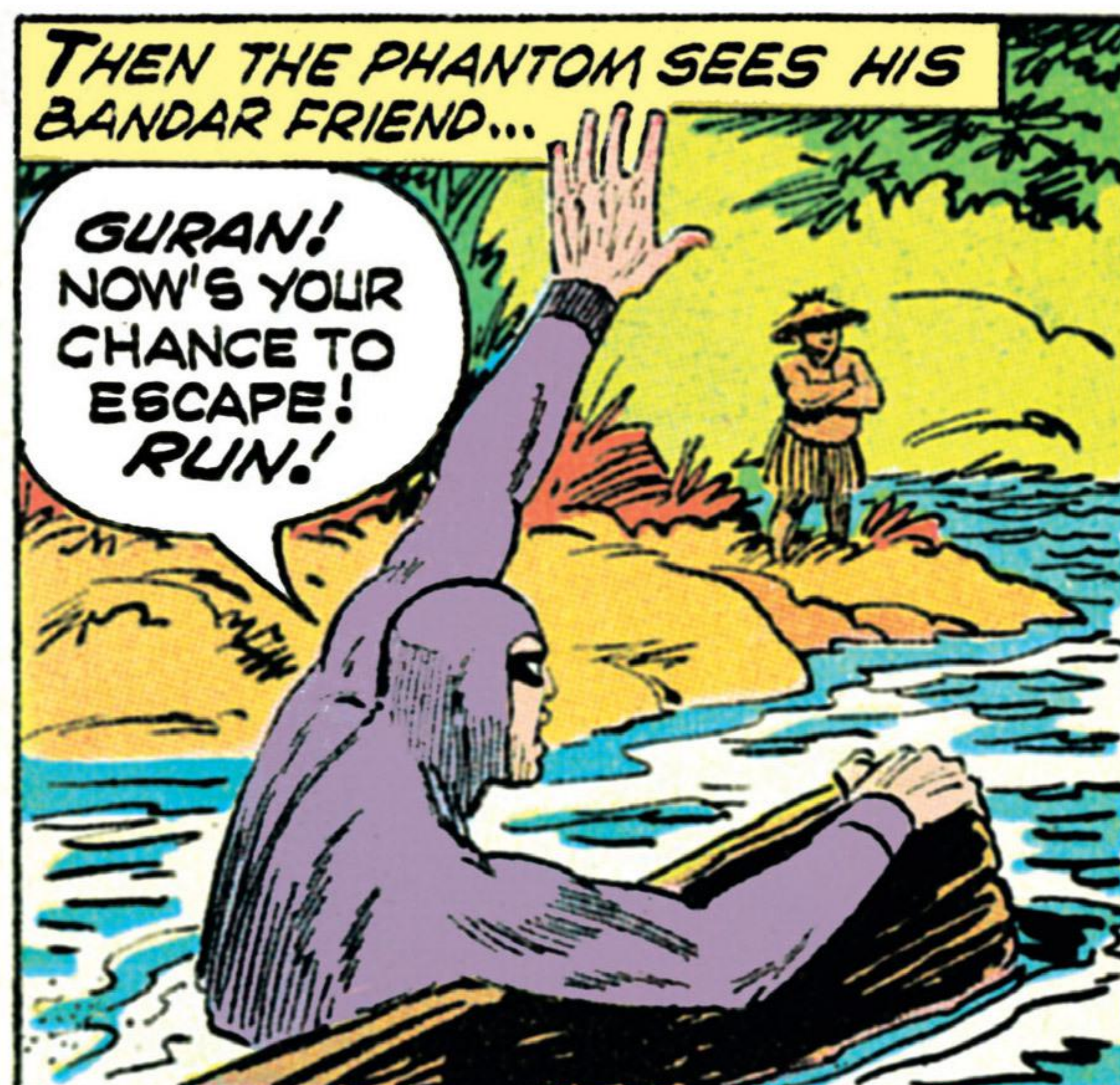
**DESPERATELY, THE PHANTOM BRACES  
HIMSELF AGAINST THE IMPACT...**



**HIS JUNGLE-SHARPENED REFLEXES  
SAVE HIM FROM INSTANT DEATH...**









**MOMENTS LATER, THE PHANTOM SURFACES OUT OF SIGHT...**

HE'S DONE FOR! LET'S PICK UP DEENA AND PUT OUR BRAIN-WASHED NATIVE FRIEND INTO ACTION!

BRAIN-WASHED... SO THAT'S WHAT'S WRONG WITH GURAN!

THEY'VE CLOUDED HIS MIND SOMEHOW... AND NOW HIS JOB IS OBVIOUS, TO LEAD THESE THIEVES TO THE **SKULL CAVE** AND THE **PHANTOM TREASURE!**

OUT OF SIGHT... NOW TO ALERT THE BANDAR GUARDS... MUST BE CAREFUL... IF WE ATTACK OUTRIGHT, GURAN COULD BE KILLED!

**LATER, IN THE DEEP WOODS...**

WE MUST SAVE GURAN! DO YOU UNDERSTAND MY PLAN?

WE SHALL NOT FAIL YOU, GHOST WHO WALKS!

**MINUTES LATER, HIS PLAN GOES INTO ACTION...**

(GURGLE!)

(CHOKE!)



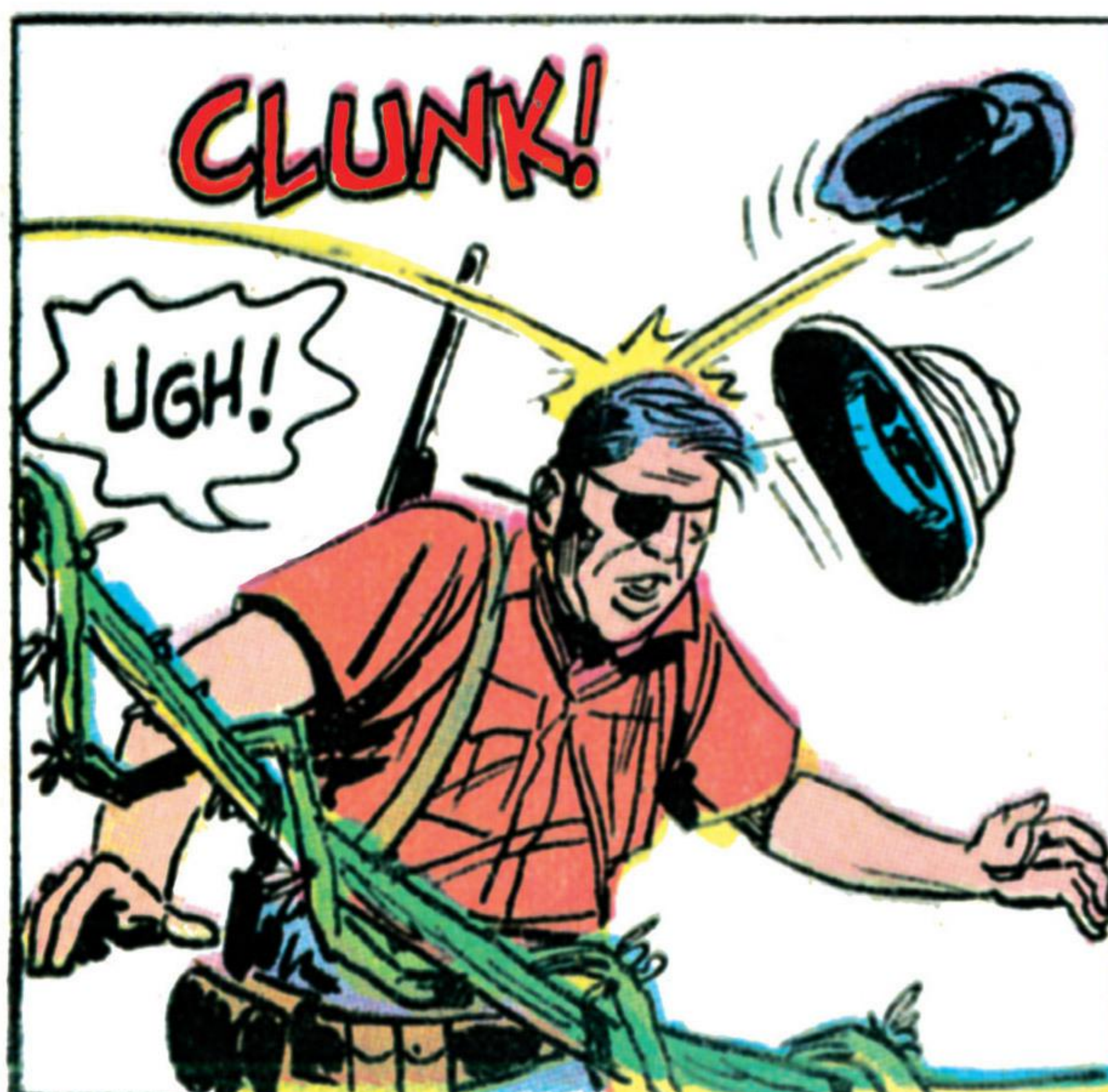
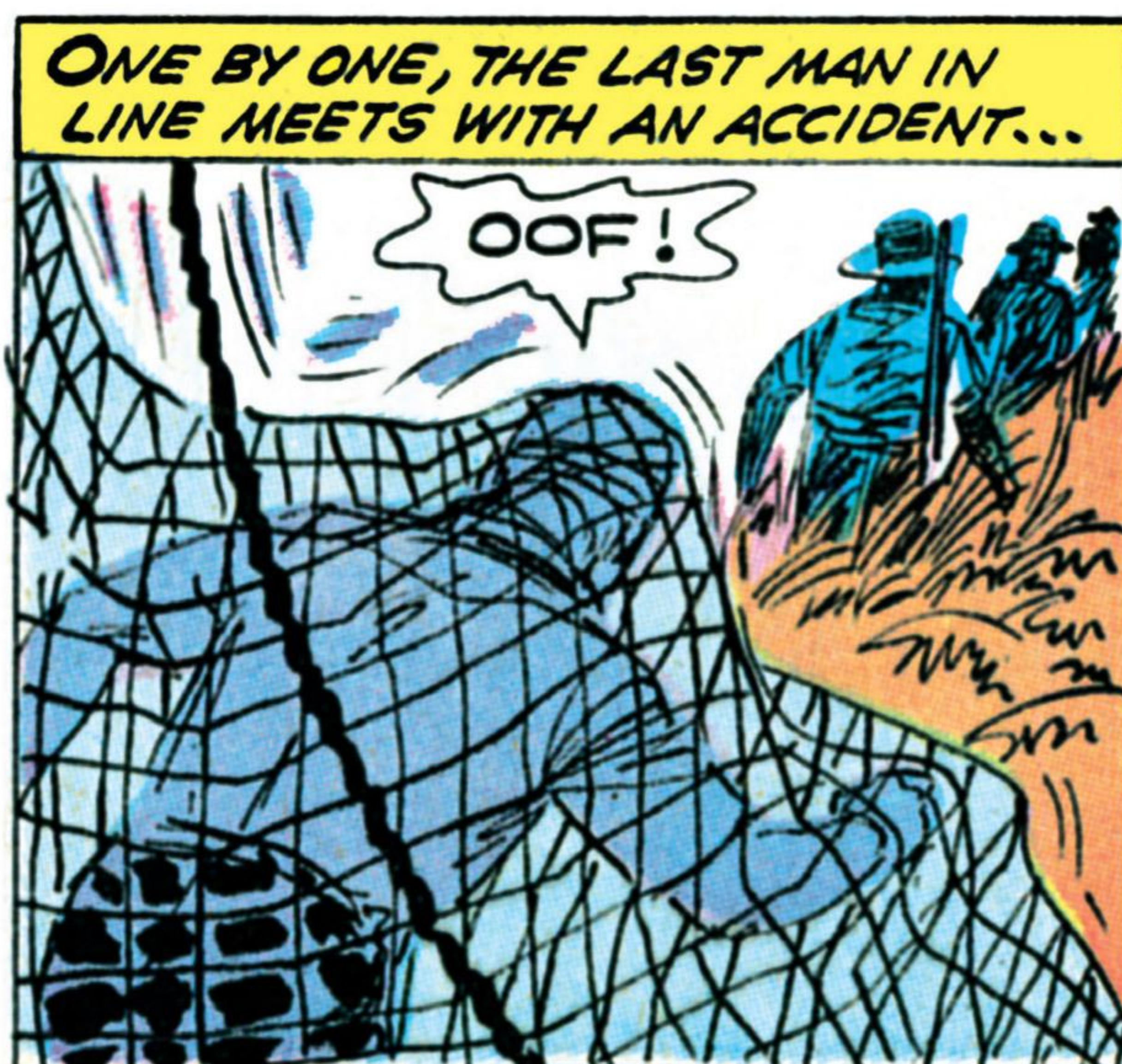
AND FURTHER ALONG THE SECRET JUNGLE TRAIL...



SO FAR, SO GOOD! NOW LET'S GET AHEAD OF THEM AGAIN AND TRY TO REDUCE HIS STRENGTH BY A FEW MORE MEN!



ONE BY ONE, THE LAST MAN IN LINE MEETS WITH AN ACCIDENT...





MINUTES LATER, AS GURAN LEADS THE GANG TO THE END OF THE SECRET TRAIL...



THE SKULL CAVE!  
FAN OUT, MEN...  
WATCH OUT FOR  
NATIVE GUARDS...  
THEY'RE TRICKY  
LITTLE GUYS!

D-DAVOT! TH-THERE'S  
NOBODY HERE!!  
OUR MEN ARE  
GONE!

YOU'RE  
AT THE  
END OF  
YOUR  
TRAIL,  
DAVOT!

WHA—?



GURAN! IT'S  
YOUR ENEMY,  
THE PHANTOM!  
ATTACK  
HIM!

YES, YES!  
GURAN  
REMEMBER!  
HE IS  
EVIL!



THE GHOST WHO WALKS MOVES  
TOWARD HIS LIFE-LONG FRIEND—  
THEIR EYES MEET...



THE BONDS OF  
FRIENDSHIP ARE  
**STRONGER**  
THAN THEIR  
MAGIC, GURAN!  
THINK OF OUR  
YEARS  
TOGETHER...  
THE **DANGERS**  
WE'VE BEEN  
THROUGH...

PHANTOM... MY  
FRIEND... DAVOT  
... HE IS THE  
**EVIL ONE!**



LATER...

IT'LL BE A LONG  
TIME BEFORE THIS  
GROUP CAUSES  
ANYONE ANY  
MORE TROUBLE!

LET'S GO, GURAN... WE'VE  
GOT TO FIND THE **REAL**  
PEACE CORPS WORKER  
AND RETURN HER TO  
THE VILLAGE!







Above: original Jim Aparo artwork for Charlton's *The Phantom* #32, read the entire story in Hermes Press' *The Phantom: The Complete Series: The Charlton Years: Volume One*.



# THE PHANTOM

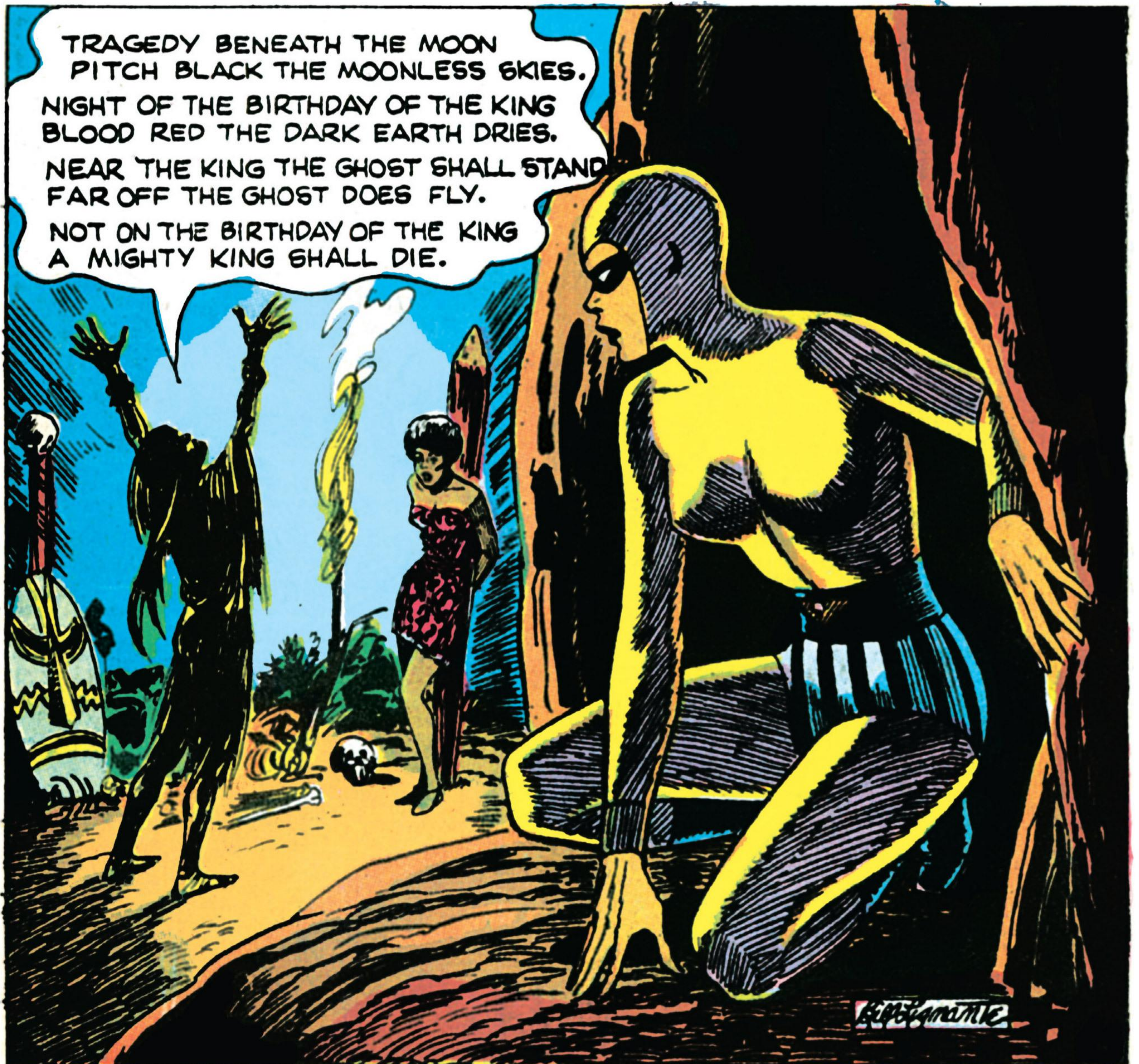




# The RIDDLE of the WITCH

**THE PHANTOM CHRONICLES** TELL THE STORY OF A PRETTY YOUNG GIRL WHO LIVED IN THE DEEP WOODS MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO. SHE WAS NO ORDINARY GIRL, BUT THE TWIN SISTER OF THE PHANTOM, TRAINED IN THE WAYS OF THE JUNGLE. SEVERAL TIMES, SHE TOOK IT UPON HERSELF TO REPLACE THE PHANTOM. BUT ONE TIME NOT EVEN THE PHANTOM HIMSELF KNEW HER SECRET UNTIL SHE HAD SOLVED THE PUZZLING RIDDLE OF THE WITCH.

TRAGEDY BENEATH THE MOON  
PITCH BLACK THE MOONLESS SKIES.  
NIGHT OF THE BIRTHDAY OF THE KING  
BLOOD RED THE DARK EARTH DRIES.  
NEAR THE KING THE GHOST SHALL STAND  
FAR OFF THE GHOST DOES FLY.  
NOT ON THE BIRTHDAY OF THE KING  
A MIGHTY KING SHALL DIE.





HERE'S ANOTHER STORY ABOUT JULIE, THE SISTER OF *THE PHANTOM* WHO WAS MY GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER!



"IT TOOK PLACE ON A DAY MORE THAN 100 YEARS AGO... A VIOLENT JUNGLE STORM WAS RAGING THROUGH THE DEEP WOODS..."



"CAUGHT IN THE SUDDEN STORM, MY ANCESTOR DECIDED TO TAKE SHELTER WITH THE SANGARIS..."



IN KING TUMUCHI'S HUT...

MUST YOU GO NOW, *PHANTOM*? THE JUNGLE IS FULL OF DANGERS AFTER SUCH A STORM!



THE FAR-OFF PRATTONIANS NEED MY HELP. BUT I WILL HEED YOUR WARNING, KING TUMUCHI.

I KNOW THE GHOST WHO WALKS IS NO ORDINARY MAN. STILL...









**AT THE SKULL CAVE, JULIE AND HER NATIVE COMPANION, MARU, HEAR OF THE TROUBLE...**

THE GIRL MAY BE LOST IN THE DARK CLIFFS? WHY WILL NO ONE SEARCH FOR HER THERE?

MANY WHO HAVE LOST THEIR WAY HAVE HEARD TERRIBLE SOUNDS FROM THE WITCH'S CAVE. BUT NO ONE WHO HAS SEEN HER HAS *EVER* RETURNED!

IT IS SAID THE WITCH CAN SEE INTO THE FUTURE. HER PROPHECIES ARE IN RIDDLES NO MAN CAN SOLVE. BUT *I* CANNOT BELIEVE ALL THIS.

NOR DO I. AND NEITHER WOULD THE *PHANTOM* IF HE WERE HERE!

**BUT THE GIRL PHANTOM HAS NO INTENTION OF WAITING FOR HER BROTHER'S RETURN...**

MISS JULIE... WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TO THE DARK CLIFFS. STAY HERE IN CASE *THE PHANTOM* RETURNS.

COME ON, FLASH! WE'LL NEED ALL YOUR SPEED AND SPIRIT TODAY!

YES, FURY. I'M AFRAID FOR OUR MISTRESS, TOO!

GRRR!



**NEARING THE DARK CLIFFS, JULIE SEES THAT THE STORM HAS DESTROYED THE RIVER BRIDGE...**



**ACROSS THE WATERS, A SCREAM FROM THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE...**



**THE SHRILL VOICE OF THE WITCH REPEATING THE WORDS OF THE RIDDLE OVER AND OVER AGAIN...**





FOR A SPLIT SECOND, THE  
WITCH IS FROZEN...



THE GHOST WHO  
WALKS!! AIEEE!

BUT AS THE GIRL PHANTOM  
COMES NEARER, THE WITCH'S  
KNIFE FLIES...



HAH!

IN THE INSTANT JULIE IS  
DISTRACTED BY THE KNIFE, THE OLD  
HAG VANISHES INTO THIN AIR...



TWANNING!

SHE MAY RETURN  
AS SUDDENLY! GOT TO  
GET OUT OF HERE FAST!



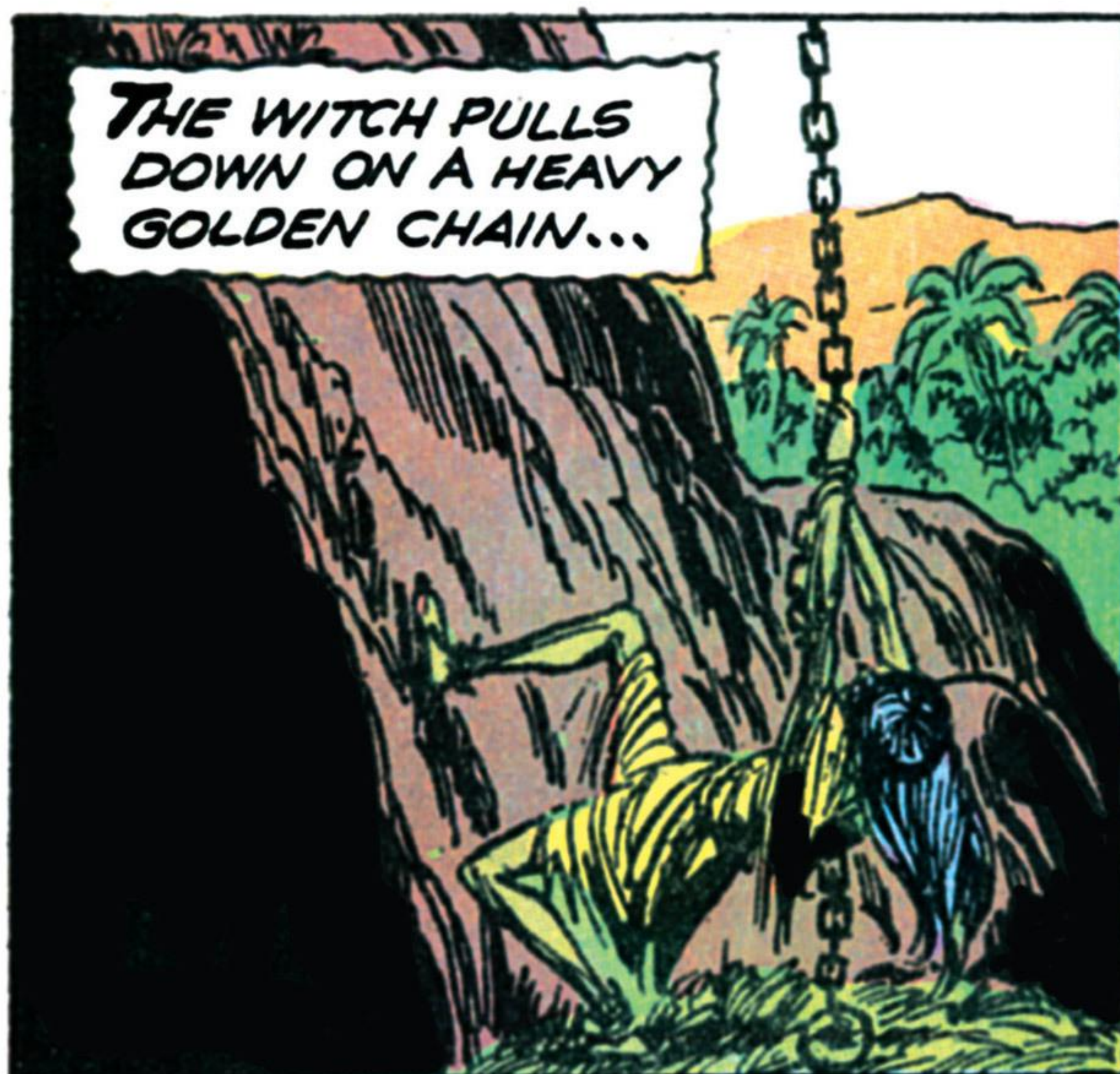
BUT THE WITCH HAS OTHER PLANS...

EVEN THE PHANTOM CANNOT ES-  
CAPE THE WITCH OF THE DARK CLIFFS!



HEH-HEH-  
HEH!

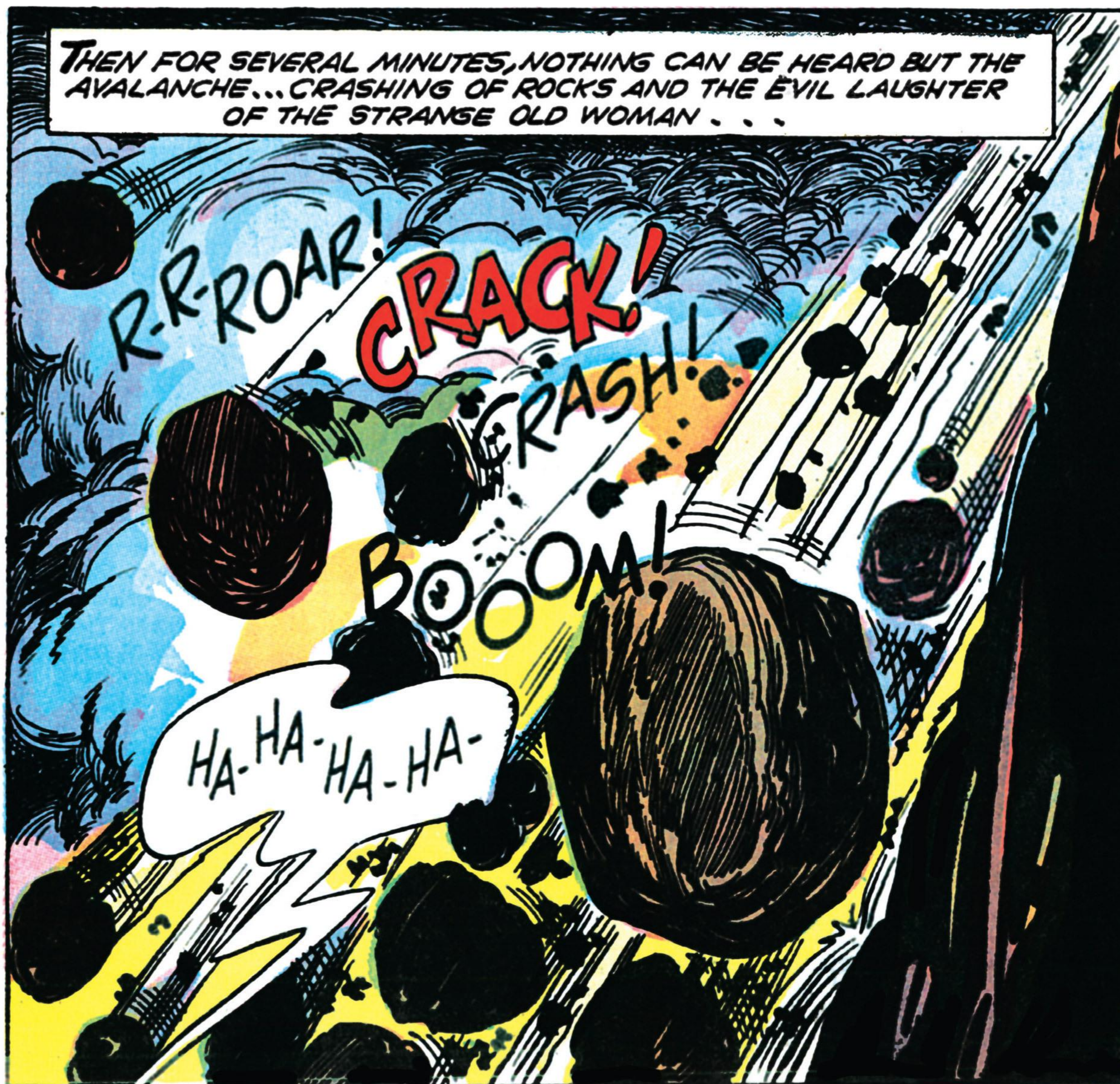




THE WITCH PULLS  
DOWN ON A HEAVY  
GOLDEN CHAIN...



RUMBLE!  
CRASH!



THEN FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, NOTHING CAN BE HEARD BUT THE  
AVALANCHE... CRASHING OF ROCKS AND THE EVIL LAUGHTER  
OF THE STRANGE OLD WOMAN . . .

R-R-ROAR!

CRACK!

CRASH!

BOOOOM!

HA-HA-HA-HA-



THE ROARING OF THE  
AVALANCHE DIES, AND THE  
WITCH'S LAUGHTER DIES  
WITH IT...



MARU, YOU  
SAVED OUR  
LIVES! HOW  
DID YOU  
GET HERE?

FURY BROKE AWAY FROM  
ME AND FOLLOWED YOU  
TO THE RIVER. THE  
CURRENT WAS SWIFT,  
BUT I SWAM ACROSS.  
SOMEHOW I KNEW YOU  
WERE IN DANGER!



"WHEN I GOT TO THE FOOT OF  
THE CLIFF I SAW A LARGE  
ROCK FALLING! ... STORIES  
ABOUT THE WITCH SAY HER  
MAGIC CAN CAUSE MANY  
ROCKS TO FALL. THIS IS HOW  
SHE KILLS HER ENEMIES."



"I CLIMBED THE CLIFF WHERE IT IS  
PROTECTED BY THIS LEDGE, AND THEN  
I SAW YOU COMING OUT OF THE CAVE,  
JUST IN TIME TO WARN YOU."



QUICK, MISS JULIE!  
GO BEFORE ADASI  
AWAKENS!

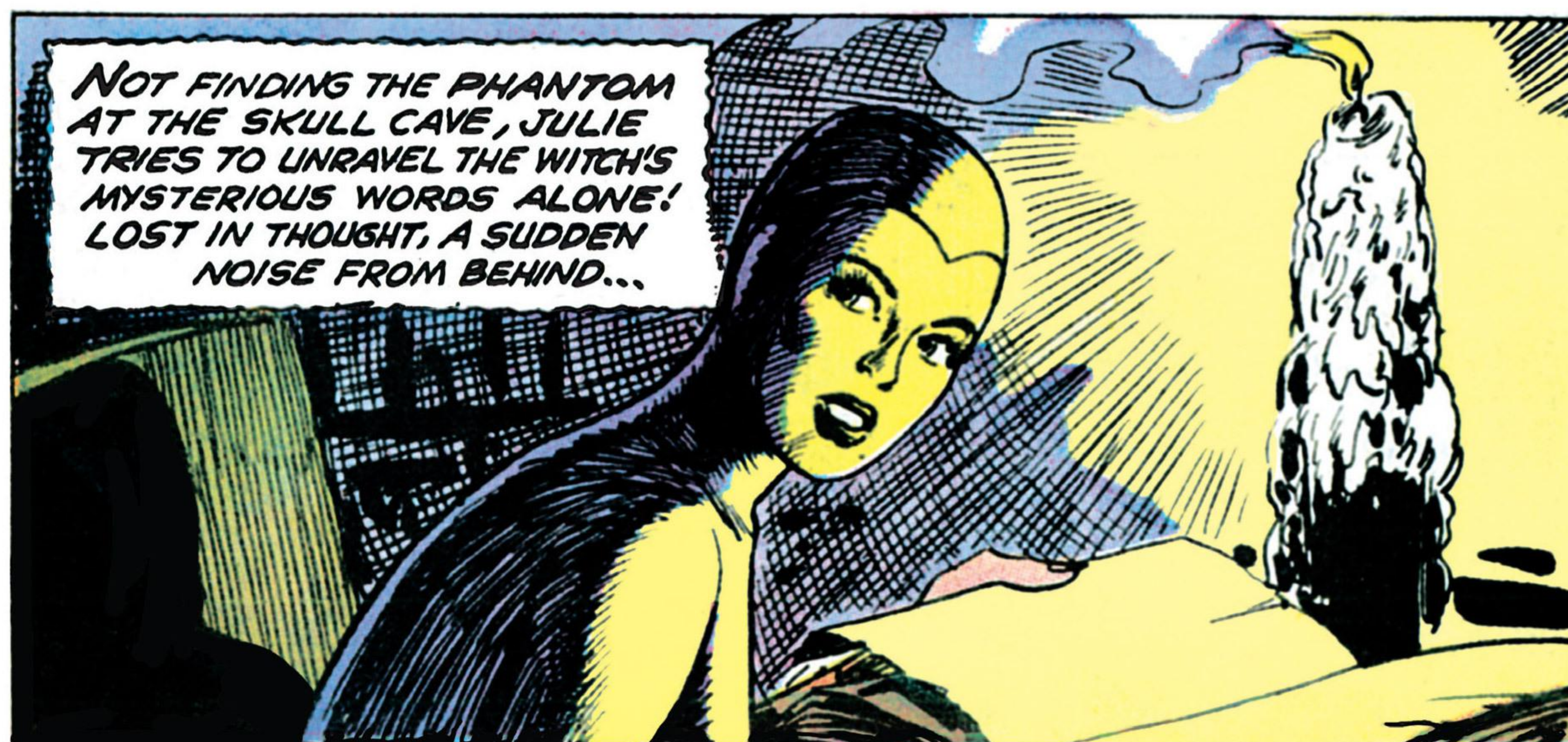
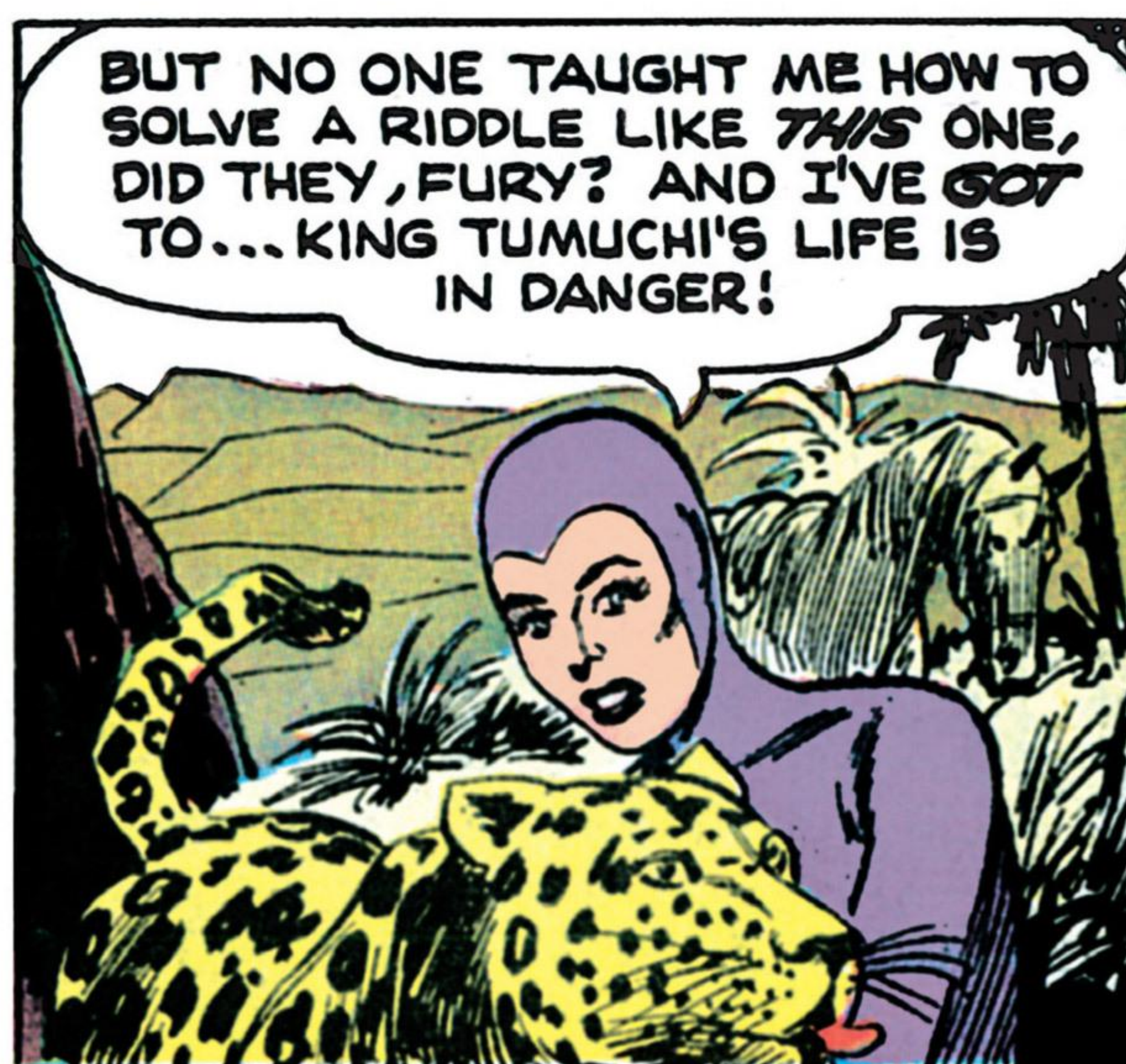
YES, YOU CAN TAKE  
HER TO THE VILLAGE  
BY CROSSING THE  
BRIDGE UP THE RIVER.  
I THINK THAT ONE  
WILL BE SAFE!



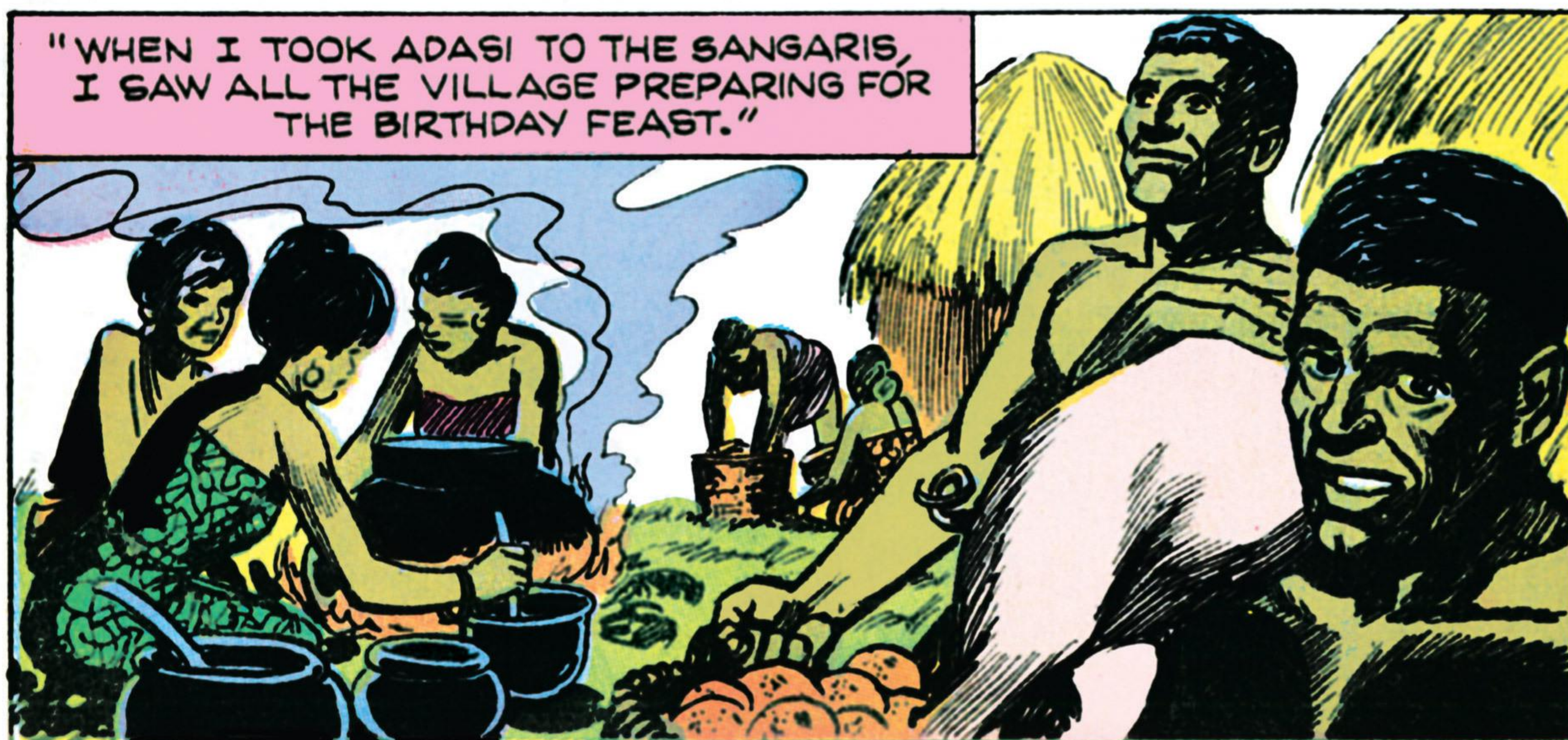
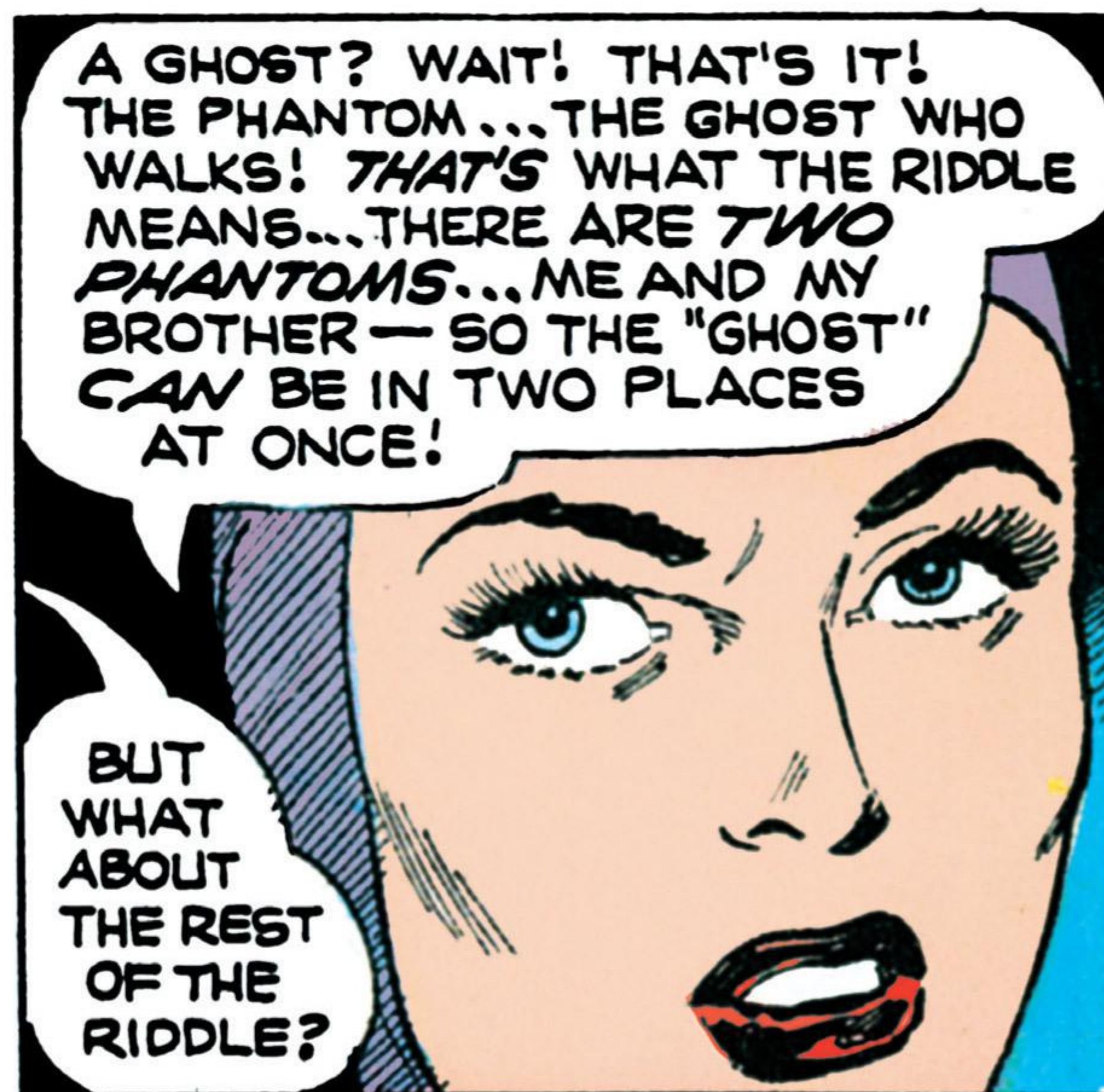




**JULIE'S THOUGHTS ARE INTERRUPTED AS SHE BATTLES THE RAGING RIVER...**









"THE SANGARIS WAIT FOR THIS NIGHT ALL YEAR LONG...THERE ARE GAMES AND CONTESTS, AND EVERYONE DRESSES IN THE COSTUME OF AN ANIMAL. THE CELEBRATION LASTS UNTIL THE KING SPEAKS...USUALLY AT MIDNIGHT.



THIS YEAR, THE SANGARIS HAVE ANOTHER REASON TO CELEBRATE. KING TUMUCHI HAS JUST SIGNED A PEACE TREATY WITH LUGAMI, KING OF THE ZIGAFU TRIBE, LONG THE ENEMIES OF THE SANGARIS.



MISS JULIE, YOU DIDN'T HEAR A WORD I SAID!



WHAT'S THAT? OH, YES, THE ZIGAFU PEACE TREATY... VERY GOOD...

LOOK! HERE'S THE ANSWER TO PART OF THE RIDDLE...



I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT MARU IS PUZZLED. THE CALENDAR WE USE IS NOT KNOWN TO HER PEOPLE.

HAVE YOU GUESSED THE ANSWER, DIANA?

YES, I THINK SO!





"KING TUMUCHI MUST HAVE BEEN BORN ON FEBURARY 29<sup>TH</sup>... THERE WAS NO FEBURARY 29<sup>TH</sup> THAT YEAR. THEN HIS BIRTHDAY WOULD BE CELEBRATED MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>. BUT IT WOULDN'T REALLY BE HIS BIRTHDAY!"



"YOU'RE RIGHT, DIANA!"

SO *TWO* PARTS OF THE RIDDLE ARE TRUE. WE'VE GOT TO PROTECT KING TUMUCHI TONIGHT!

WILL YOU GO AS THE *GIRL PHANTOM* TO THE CELEBRATION?



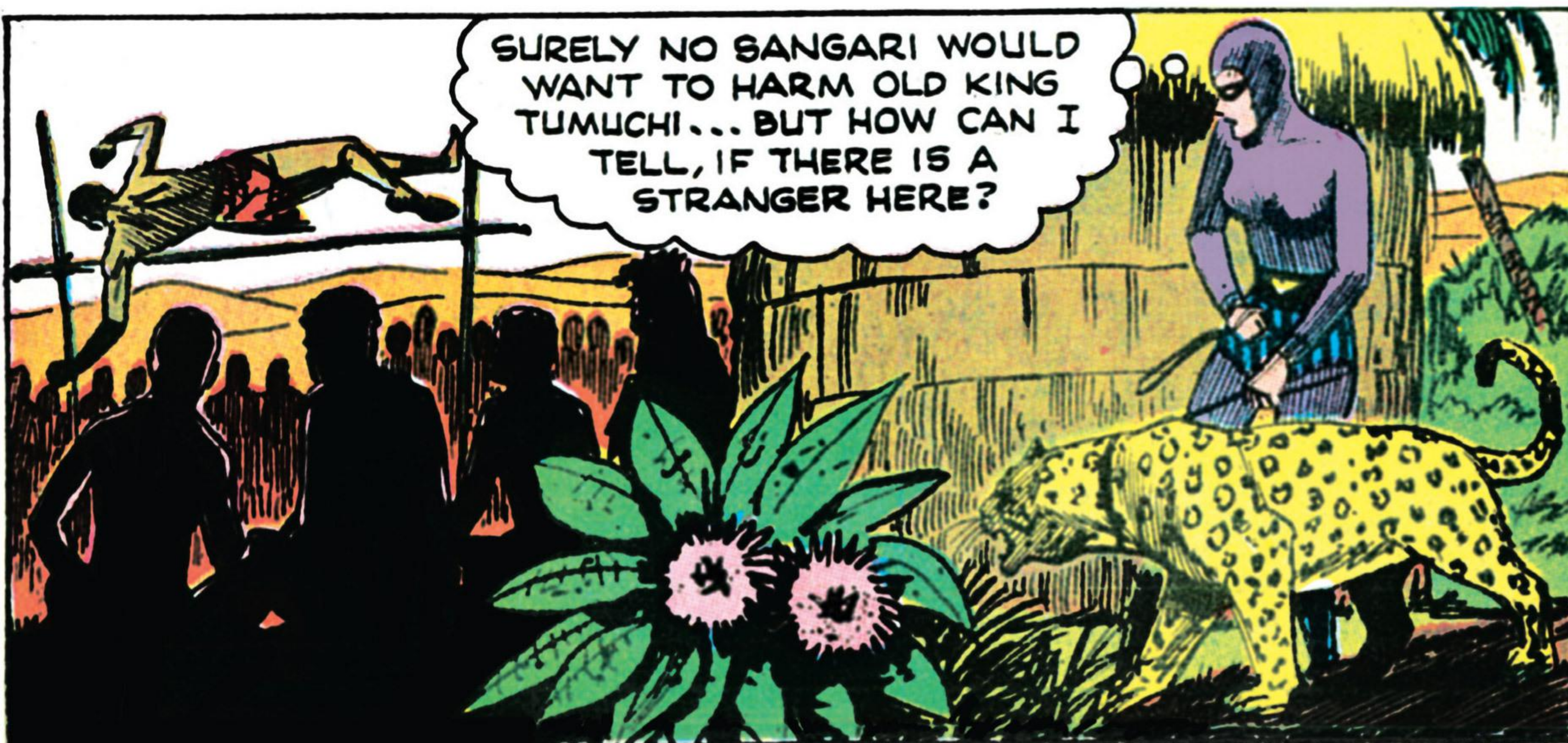
YES... YOU CAN WEAR A LEOPARD-SKIN COSTUME...



...AND FURY CAN COME EXACTLY AS SHE IS!



SURELY NO SANGARI WOULD WANT TO HARM OLD KING TUMUCHI... BUT HOW CAN I TELL, IF THERE IS A STRANGER HERE?









# THE RIDDLE OF THE WITCH

## PART II

**R**EADING FROM THE PHANTOM CHRONICLES, DIANA AND OUR PHANTOM LEARN MORE ABOUT JULIE, THE TWIN SISTER OF THE PHANTOM WHO LIVED A HUNDRED YEARS AGO. WHEN HER BROTHER WAS AWAY, JULIE BECAME THE GIRL PHANTOM TO MATCH WITS WITH THE WITCH OF THE DARK CLIFFS... WHOSE TERRIBLE RIDDLE SEEMED TO FORECAST DEATH TO THE SANGARI KING ON THE NIGHT OF HIS BIRTHDAY FEAST.

BEFORE I READ ANY MORE, DIANA, DO YOU REMEMBER THE EXACT WORDS OF THE RIDDLE OF THE WITCH?

"TRAGEDY BENEATH THE MOON  
PITCH BLACK THE MOONLESS SKY.  
NIGHT OF THE BIRTHDAY OF THE KING  
BLOOD RED THE DARK EARTH DRIES.  
NEAR THE KING, A GHOST SHALL STAND  
FAR OFF THE GHOST DOES FLY.  
NOT ON THE BIRTHDAY OF THE KING  
TONIGHT A KING SHALL DIE."



"AND THOUGH THESE WORDS SEEMED TO MAKE NO SENSE AT FIRST..."



"...IT BEGAN TO LOOK LIKE THE WITCH'S PREDICTION WOULD COME TRUE."





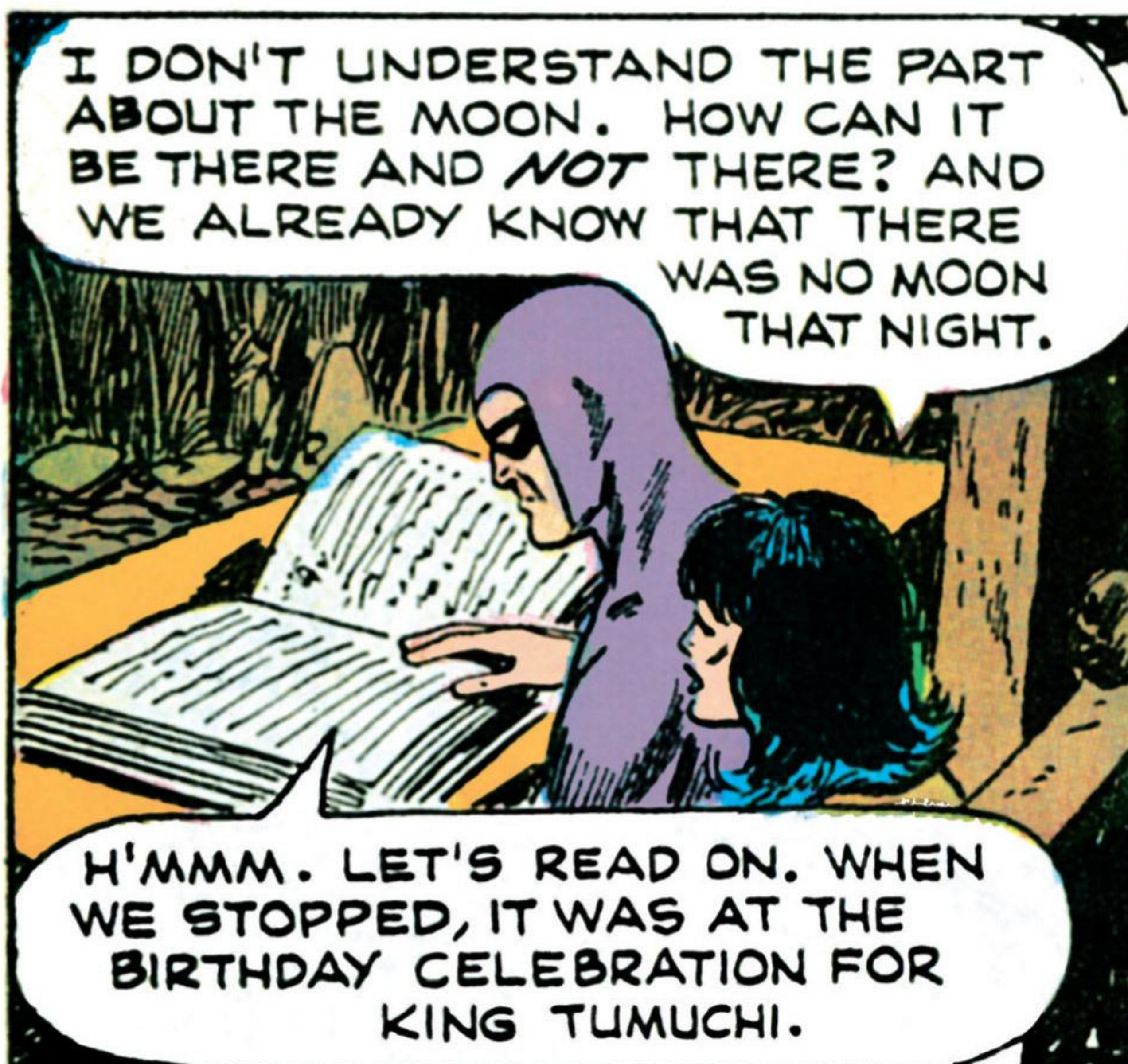
IN THE WITCH'S RIDDLE, "GHOST" MEANT GHOST WHO WALKS—*THE PHANTOM!* A "GHOST" *COULD* BE NEAR-BY AND FAR AWAY AT THE SAME TIME.



"THEN, JULIE DISCOVERED THAT KING TUMUCHI'S BIRTHDAY WAS ON FEBRUARY 29<sup>TH</sup>, WHICH DIDN'T OCCUR ON THE YEAR OF THE STORY. SO, IT *WAS* HIS BIRTHDAY...AND YET IT WASN'T..."



I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE PART ABOUT THE MOON. HOW CAN IT BE THERE AND *NOT* THERE? AND WE ALREADY KNOW THAT THERE WAS NO MOON THAT NIGHT.



H'MMM. LET'S READ ON. WHEN WE STOPPED, IT WAS AT THE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR KING TUMUCHI.

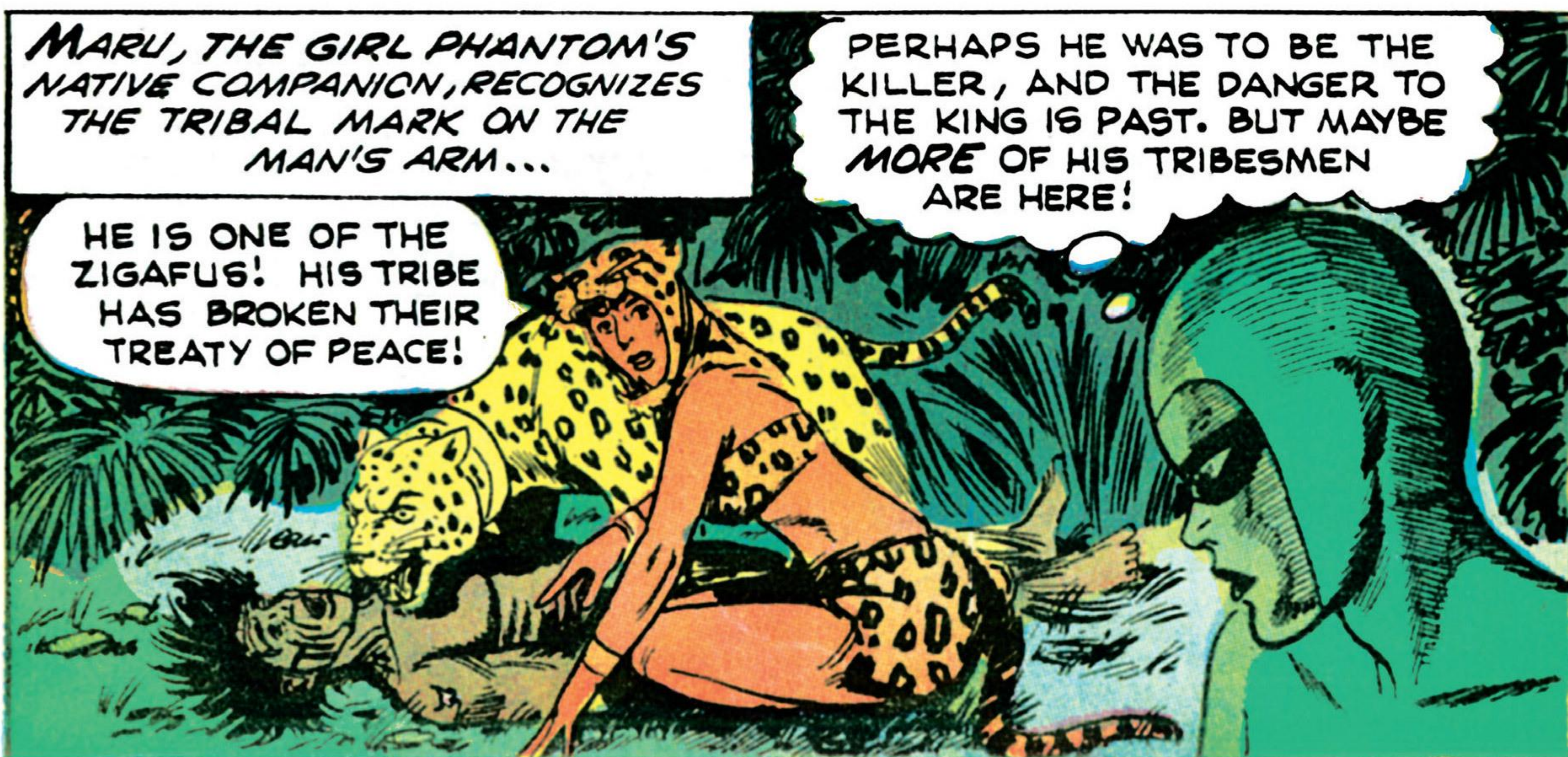
"AND JULIE'S PET, FURY, HAD JUST CAUGHT SOMEONE HIDING OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE CLEARING."



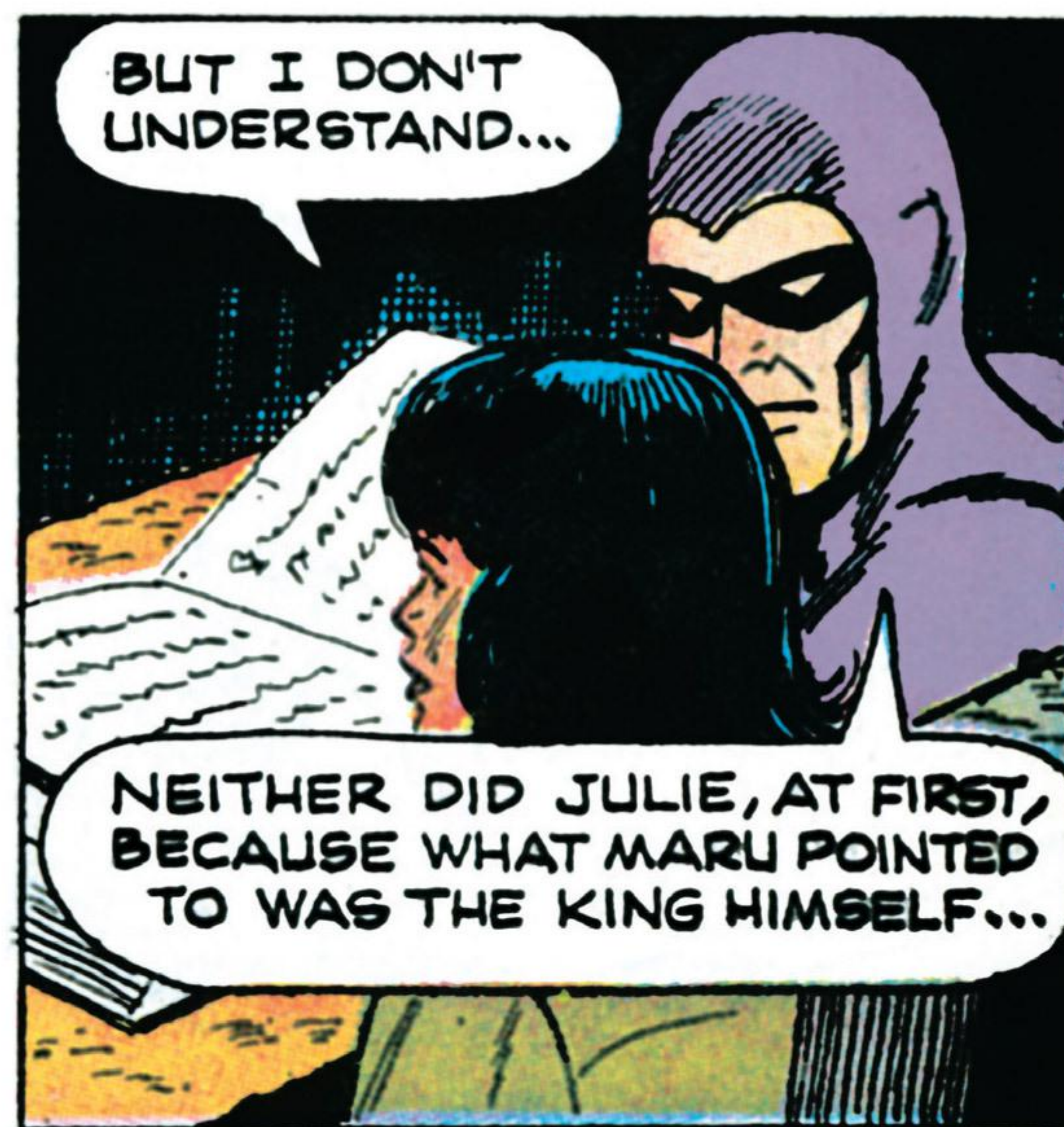
*MARU, THE GIRL PHANTOM'S NATIVE COMPANION, RECOGNIZES THE TRIBAL MARK ON THE MAN'S ARM...*

HE IS ONE OF THE ZIGAFUS! HIS TRIBE HAS BROKEN THEIR TREATY OF PEACE!

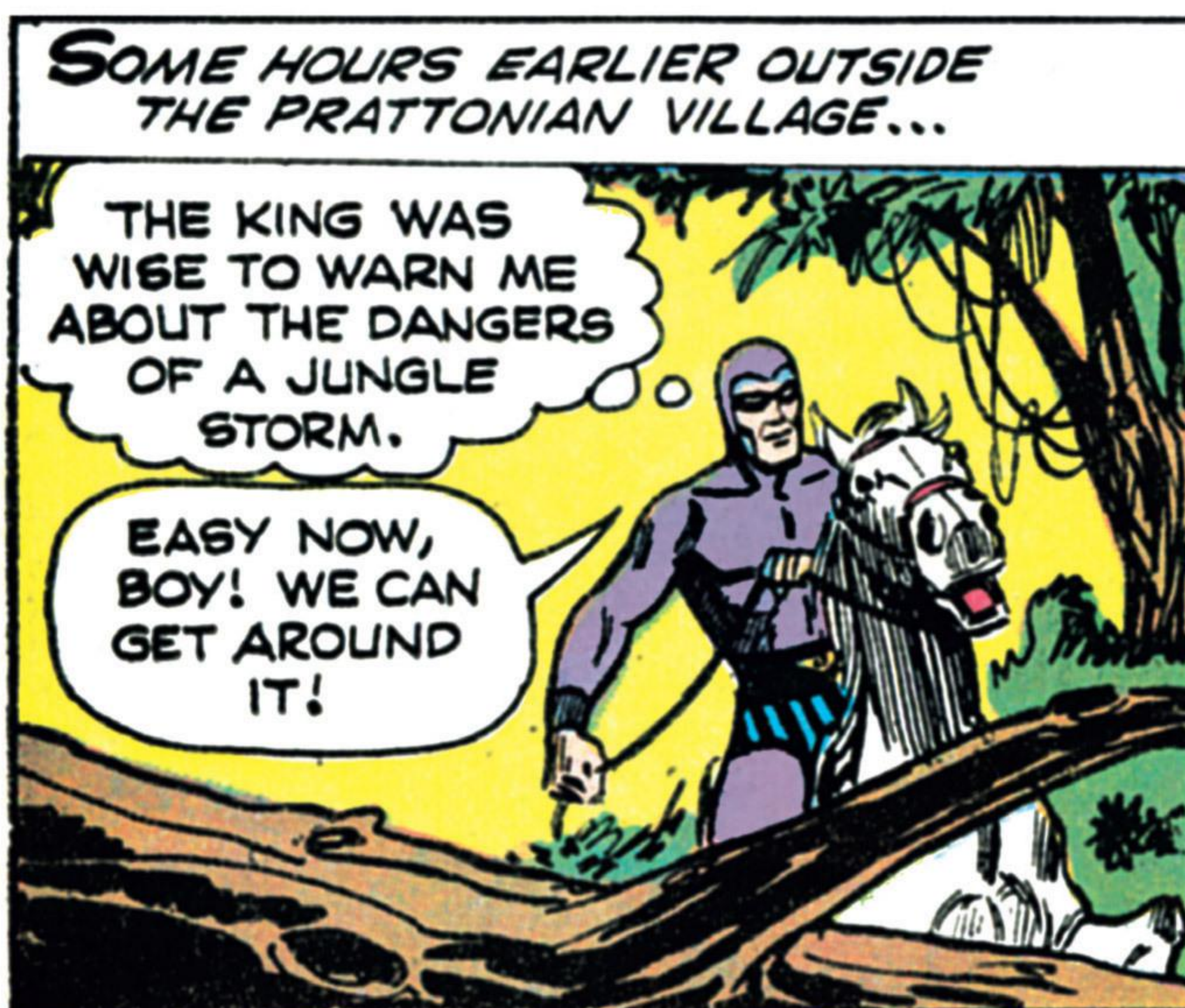
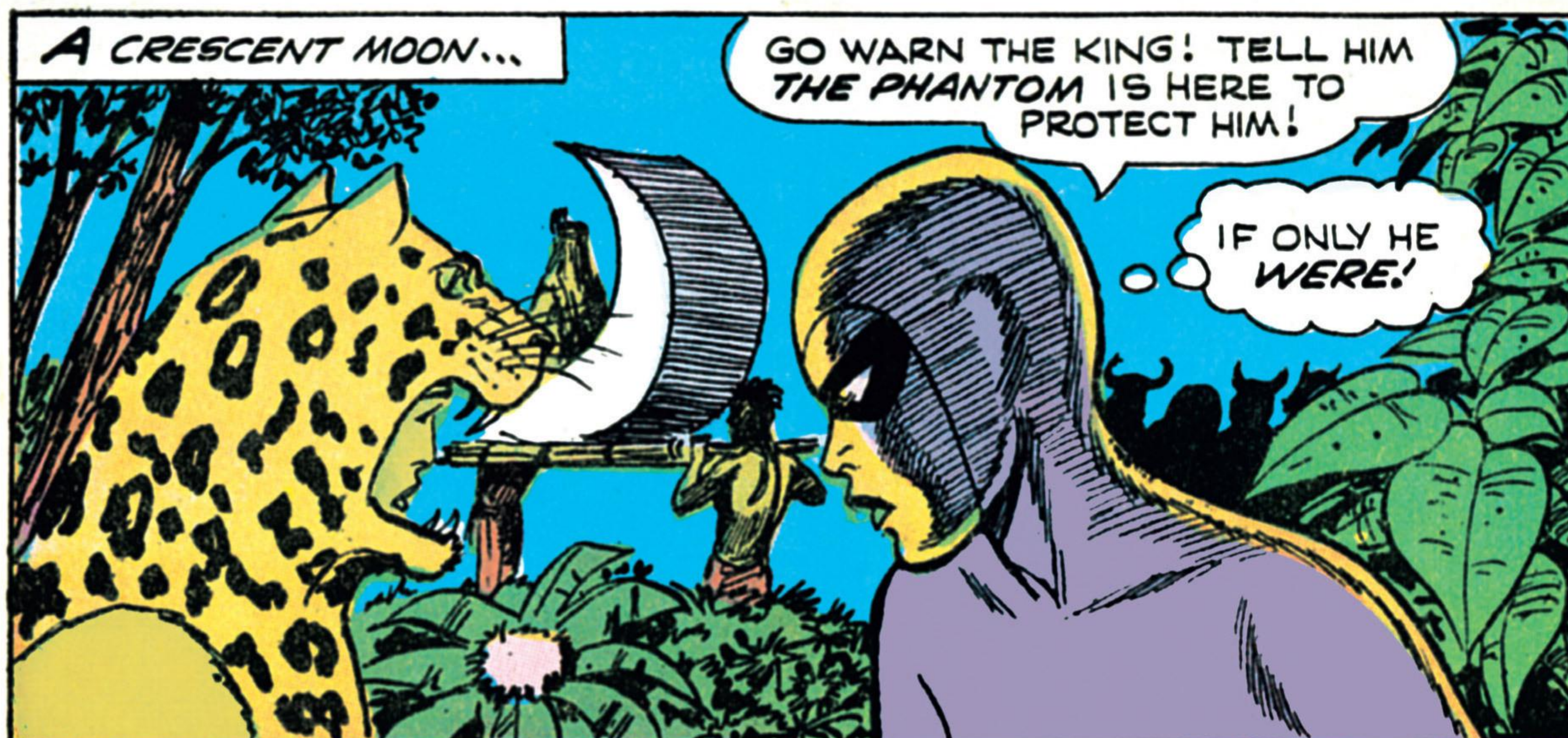
PERHAPS HE WAS TO BE THE KILLER, AND THE DANGER TO THE KING IS PAST. BUT MAYBE *MORE* OF HIS TRIBESMEN ARE HERE!







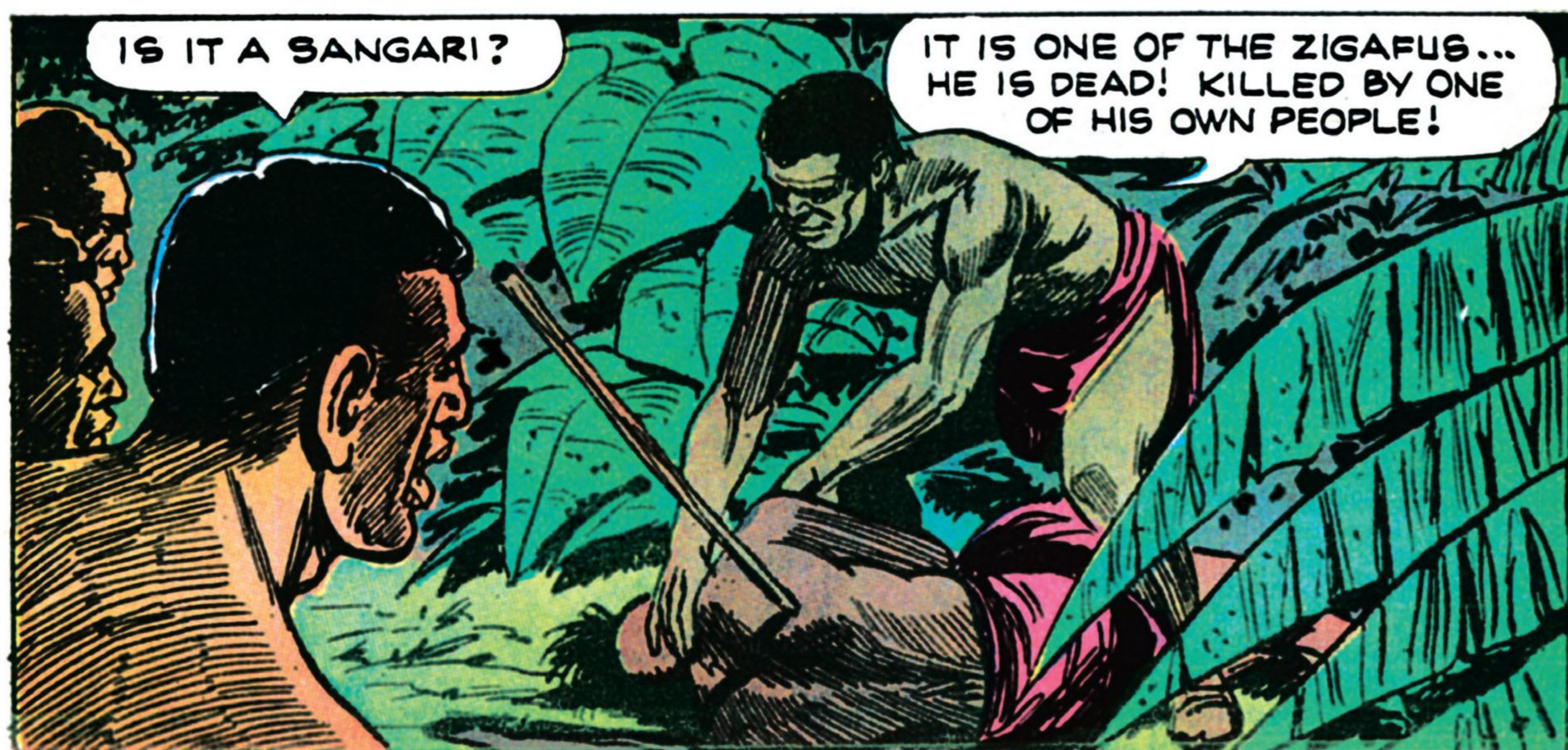
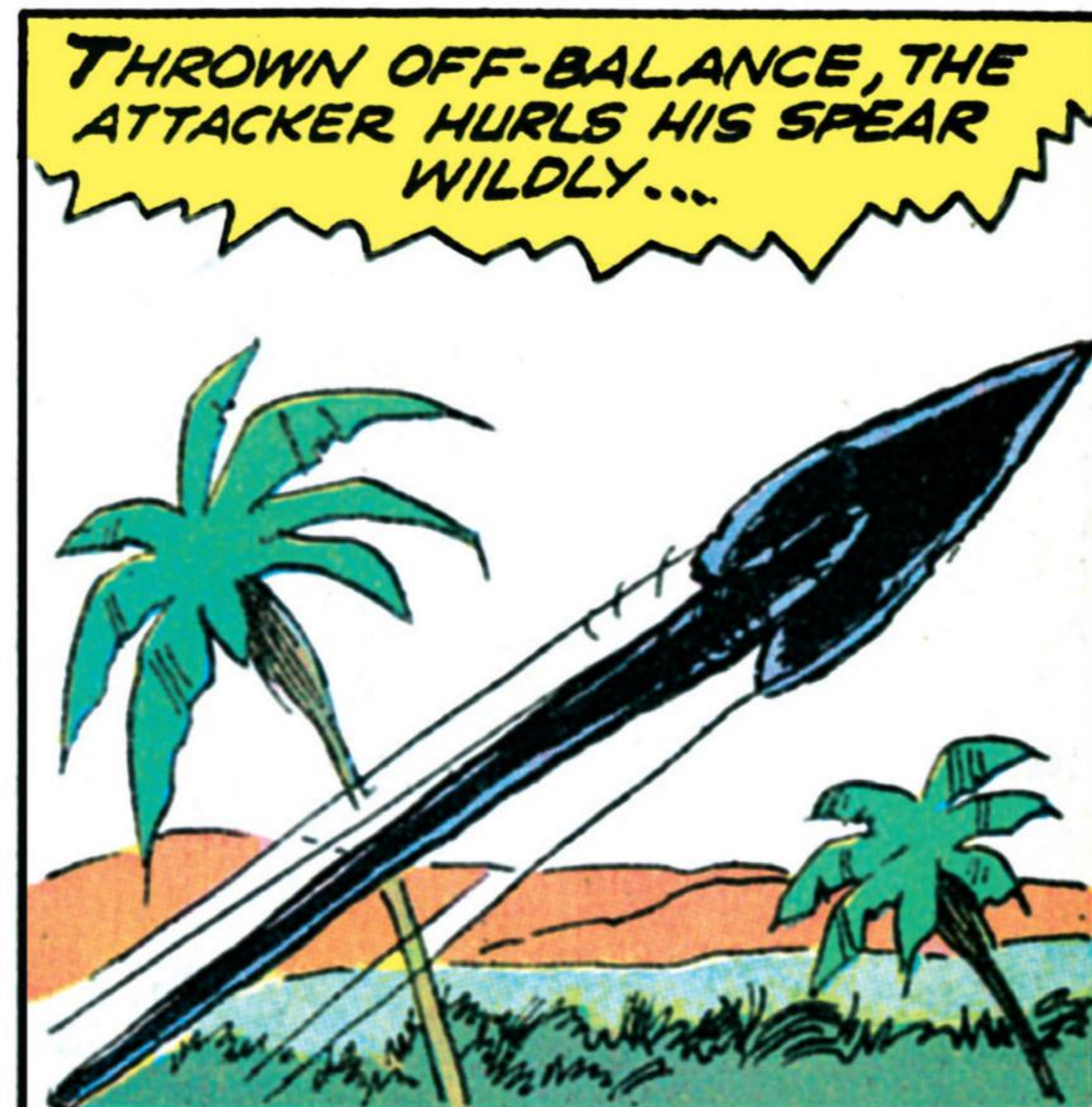




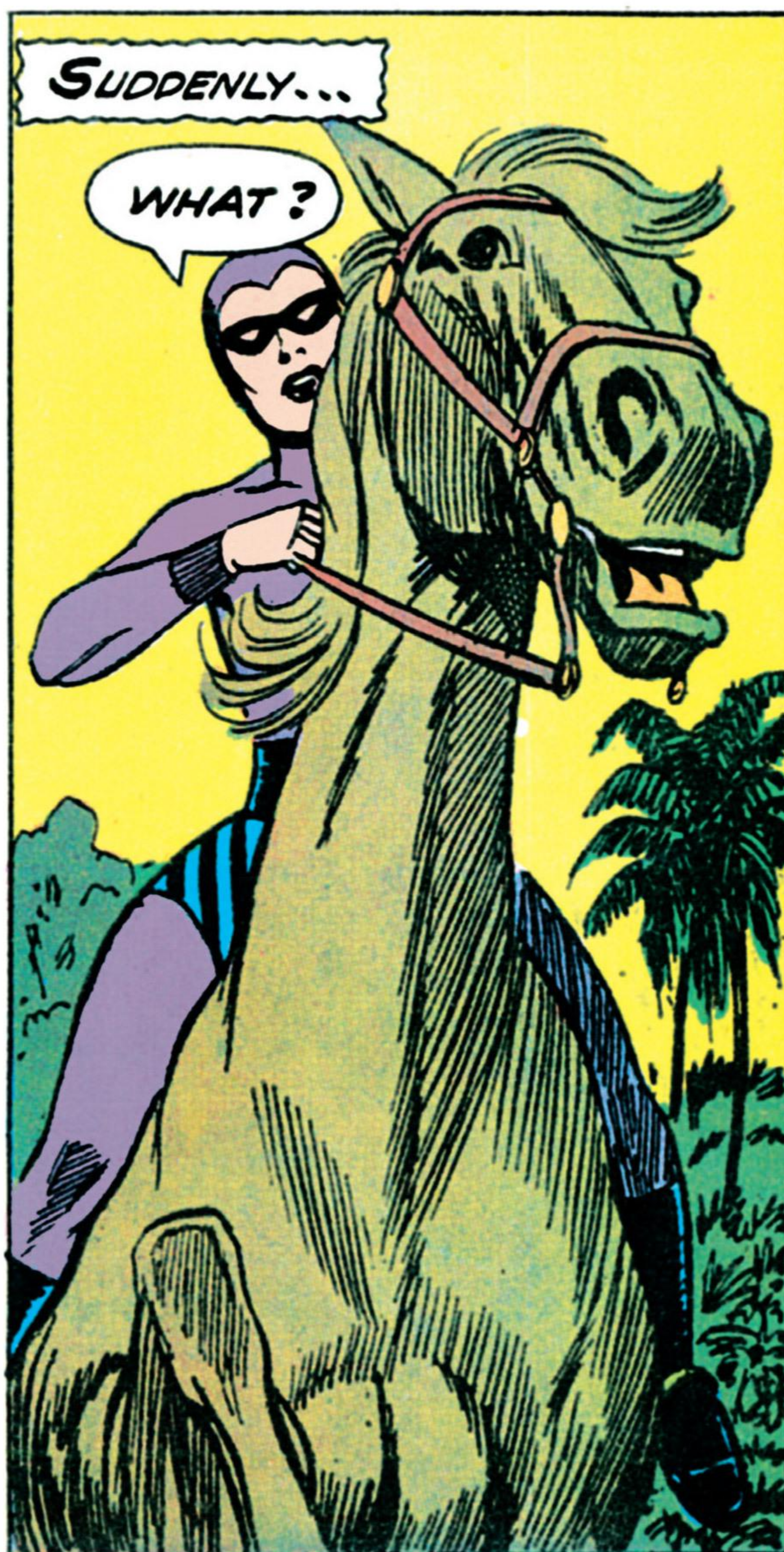




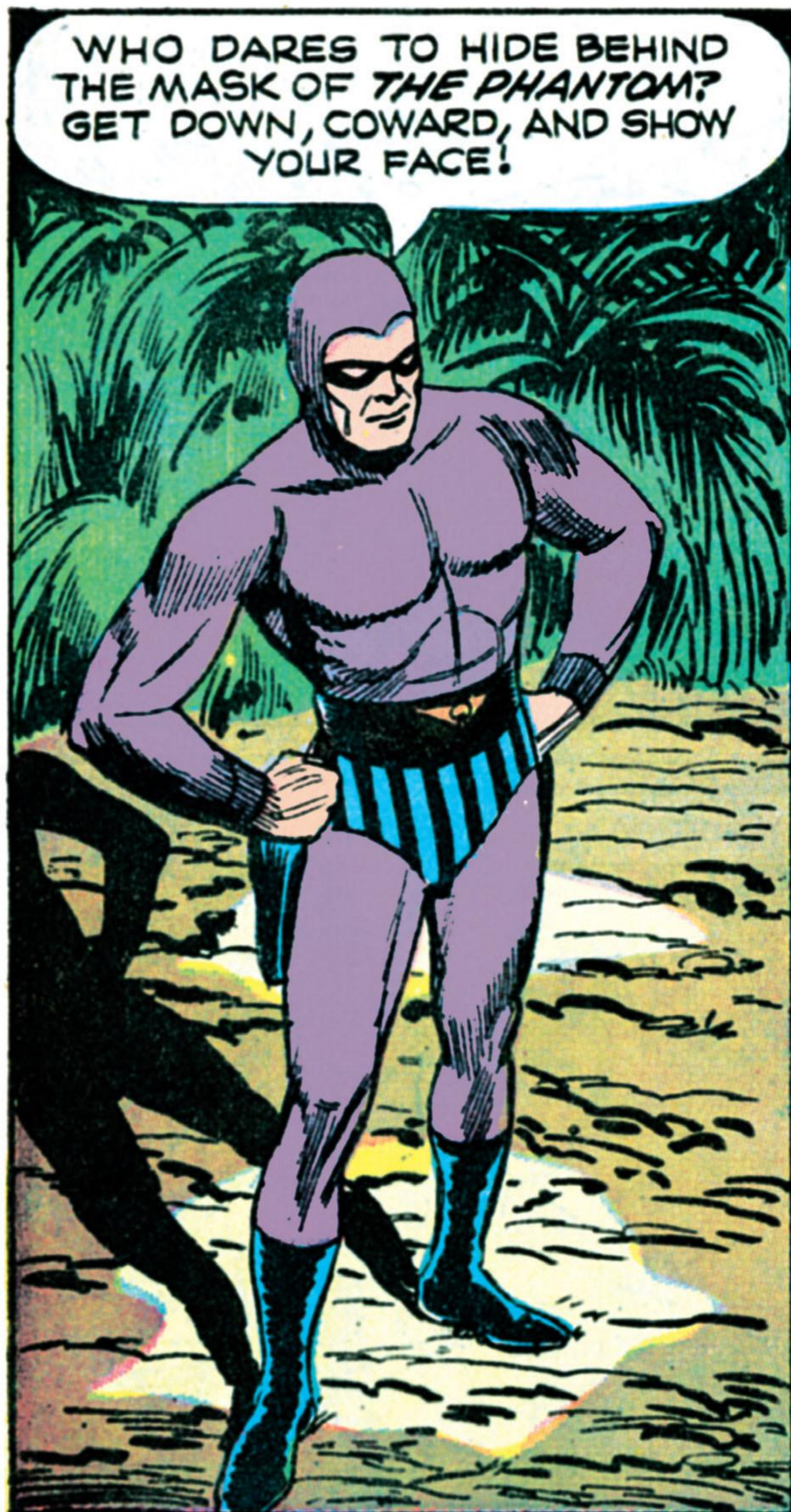




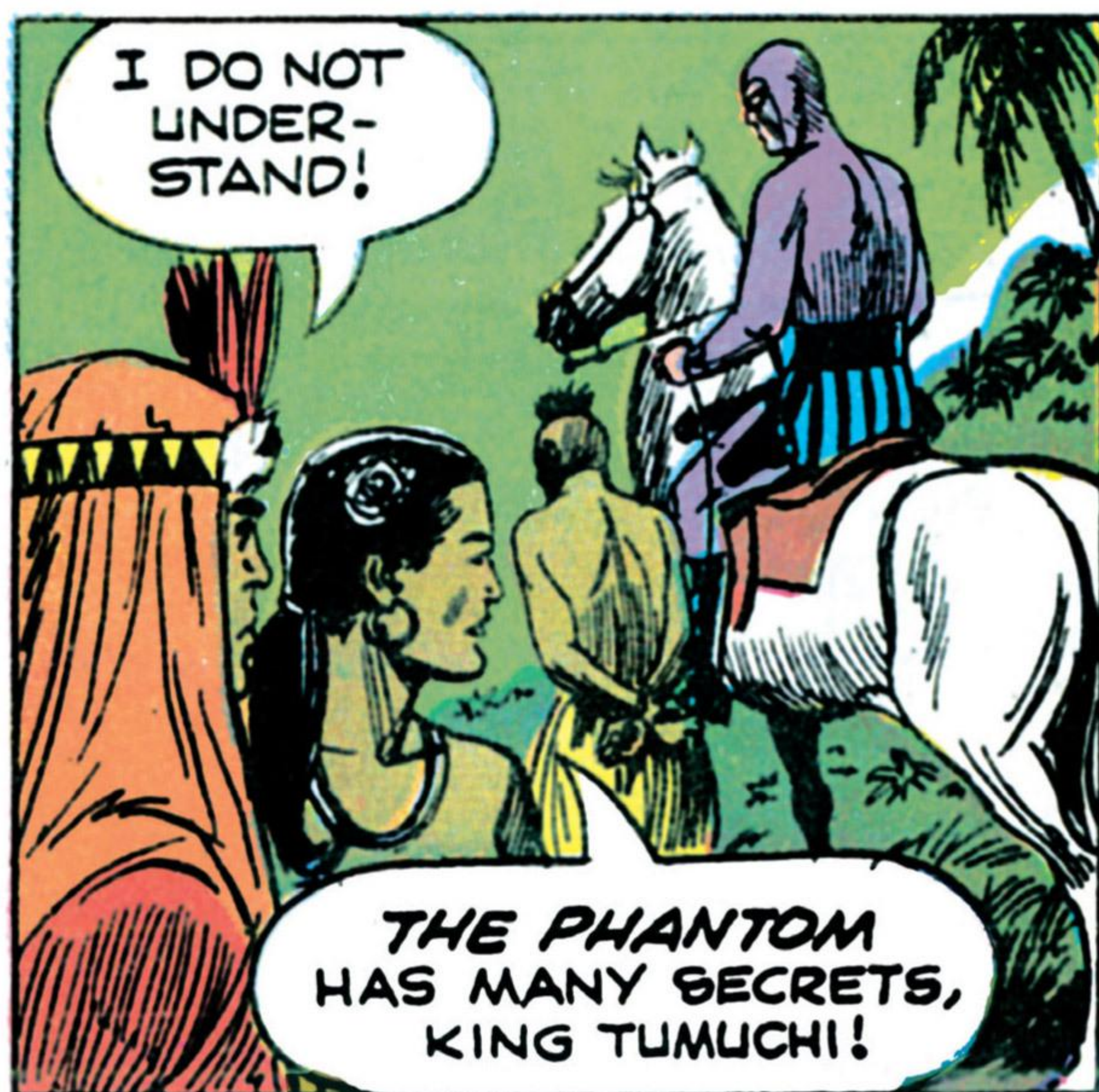
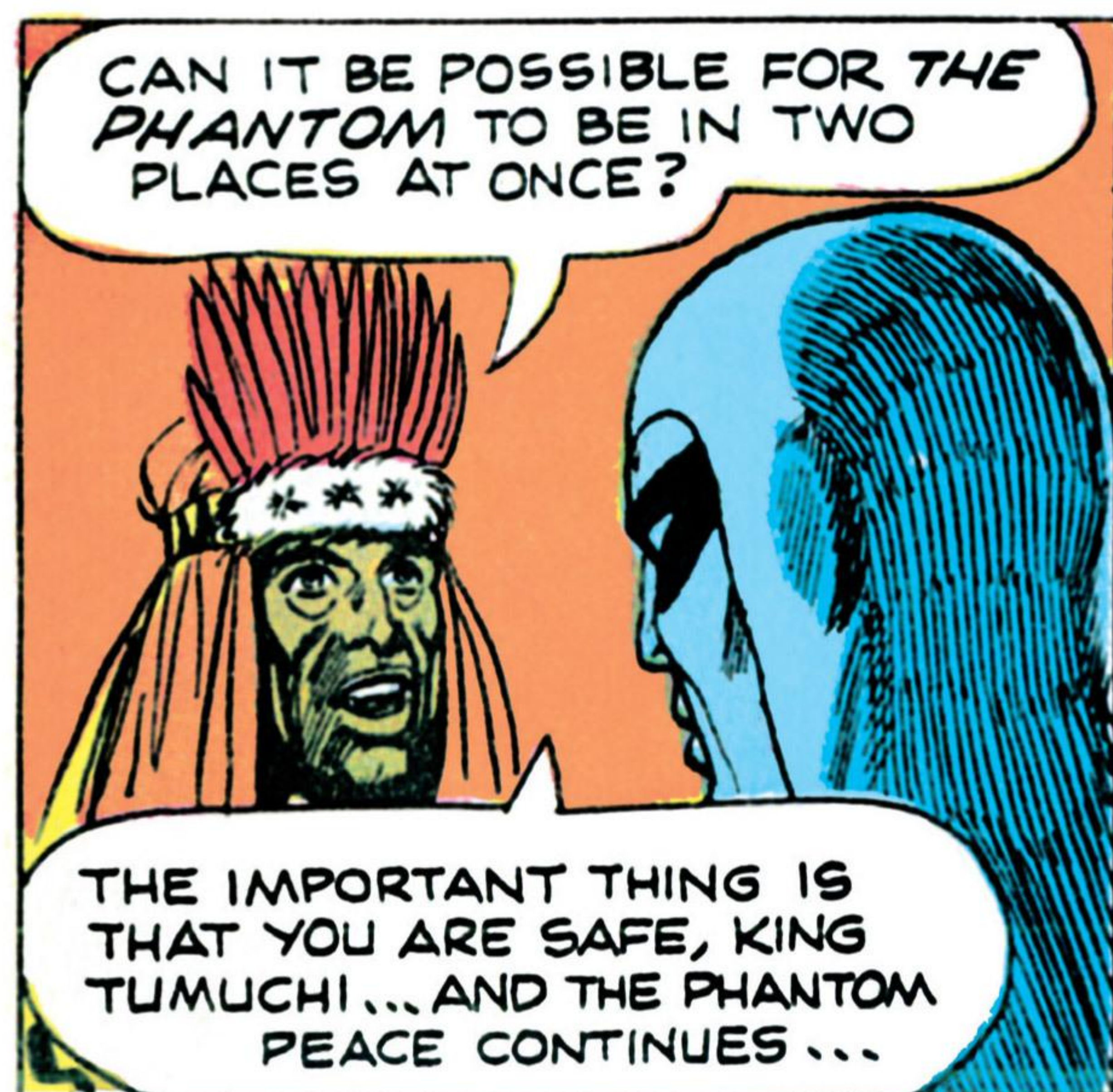




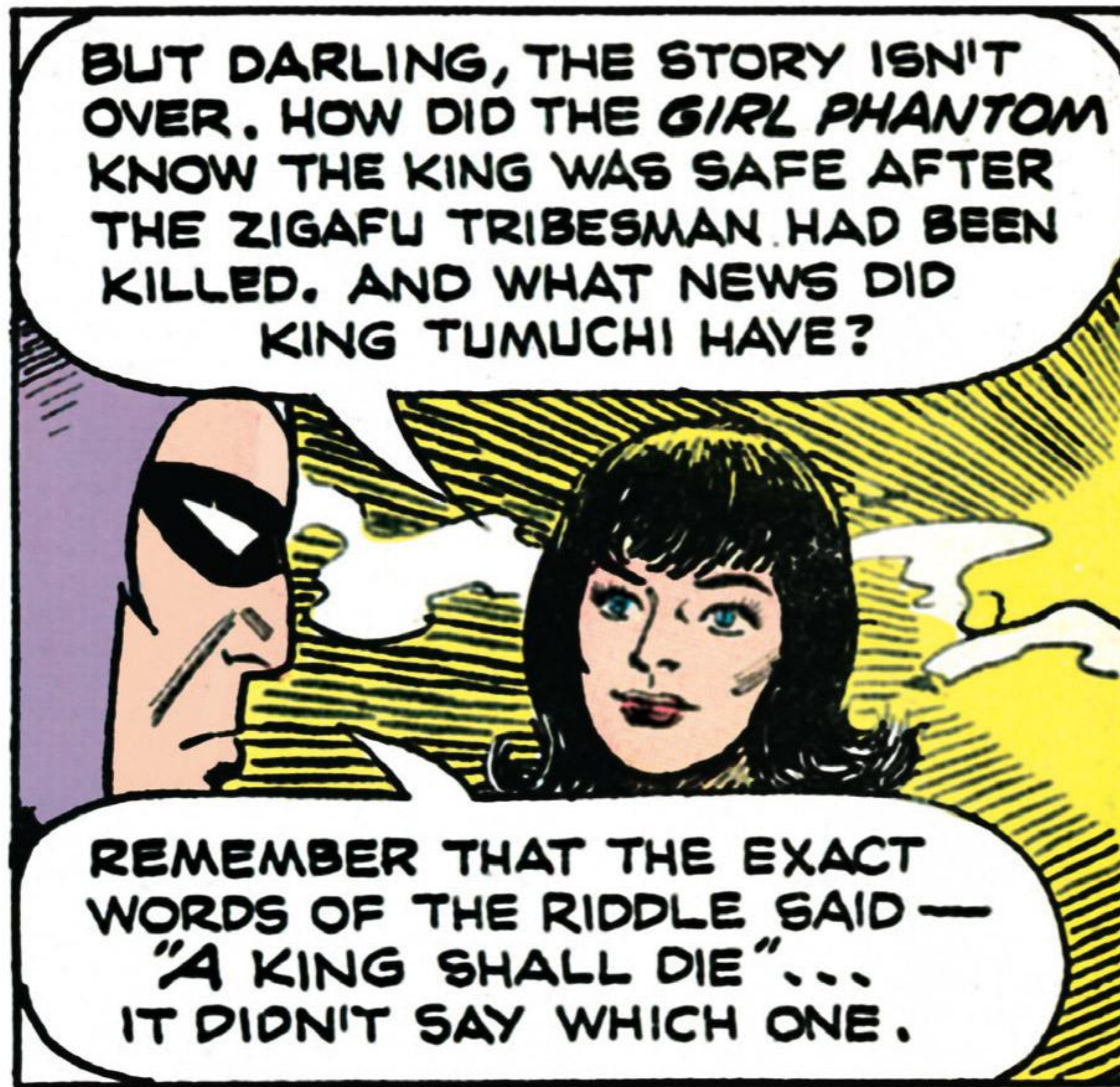
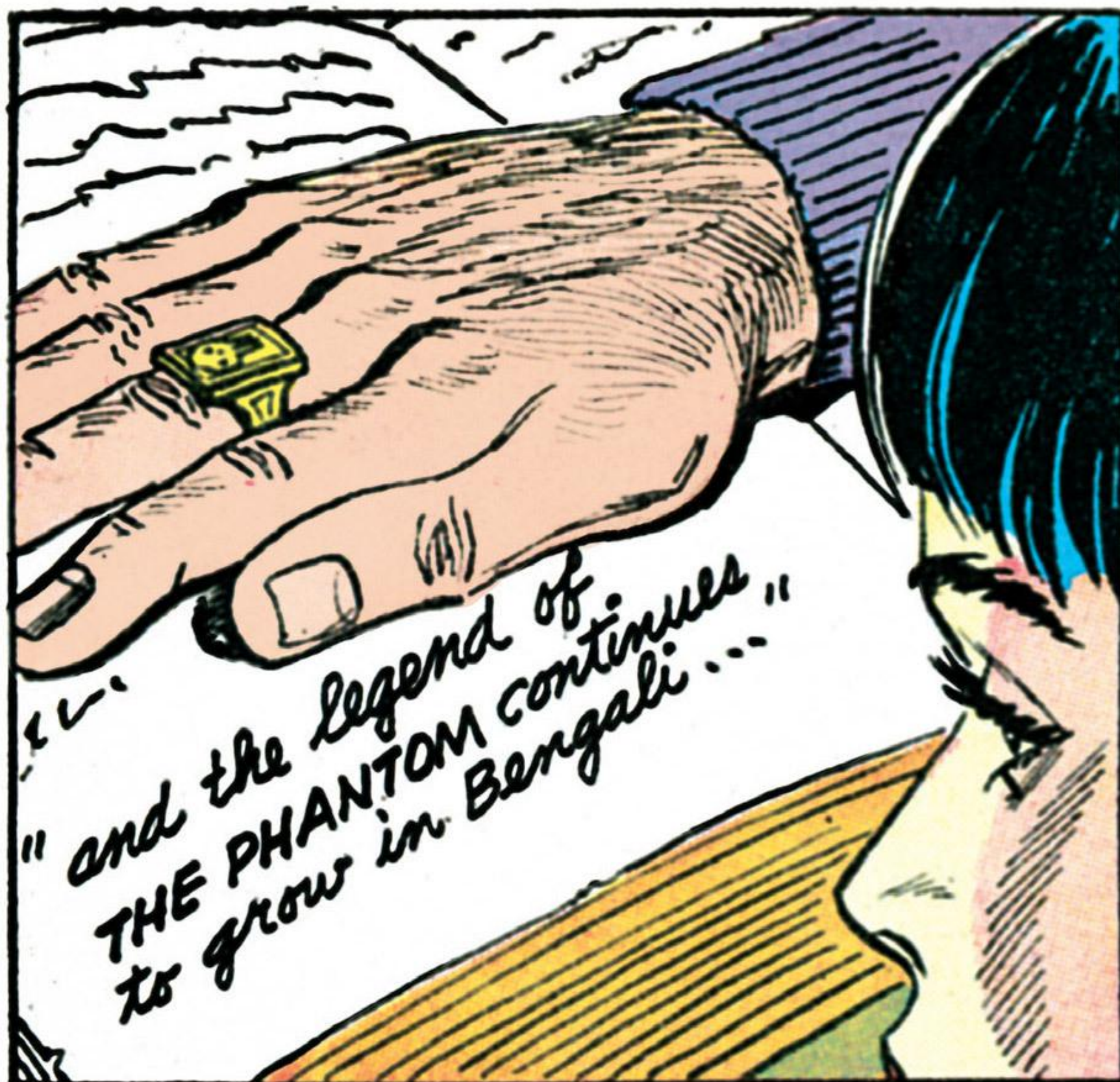


















AND WHEN THE MEN HAVE EXPLAINED WHAT HAPPENED AT THEIR DIGGINGS...

SO THAT IS THE STORY, PHANTOM! THE PHARAOH, ER, PHANTOM HAS TAKEN OVER THAT TEMPLE ON THE HILLSIDE! I DON'T BELIEVE IN SUCH THINGS... BUT WHOEVER OR WHATEVER THIS MAN IS, HE IS A PERSON OF FRIGHTENING POWERS! I... CAN NOT EXPLAIN IT!



THANK YOU! PERHAPS BEFORE TOO LONG I SHALL BE ABLE TO!


AS THE PHANTOM MOVES FORWARD, AN EXCITED, FEAR-FILLED CROWD FOLLOWS IN HIS WAKE...

THE **PHANTOM FROM BENGALI**... HE SEEKS OUT THE **PHARAOH** PHANTOM! NOW WE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH FOR CERTAIN!

A TEMPLE TO RULE FROM! THIS CHARACTER HASN'T MISSED A TRICK! AND... WHAT'S THAT?...



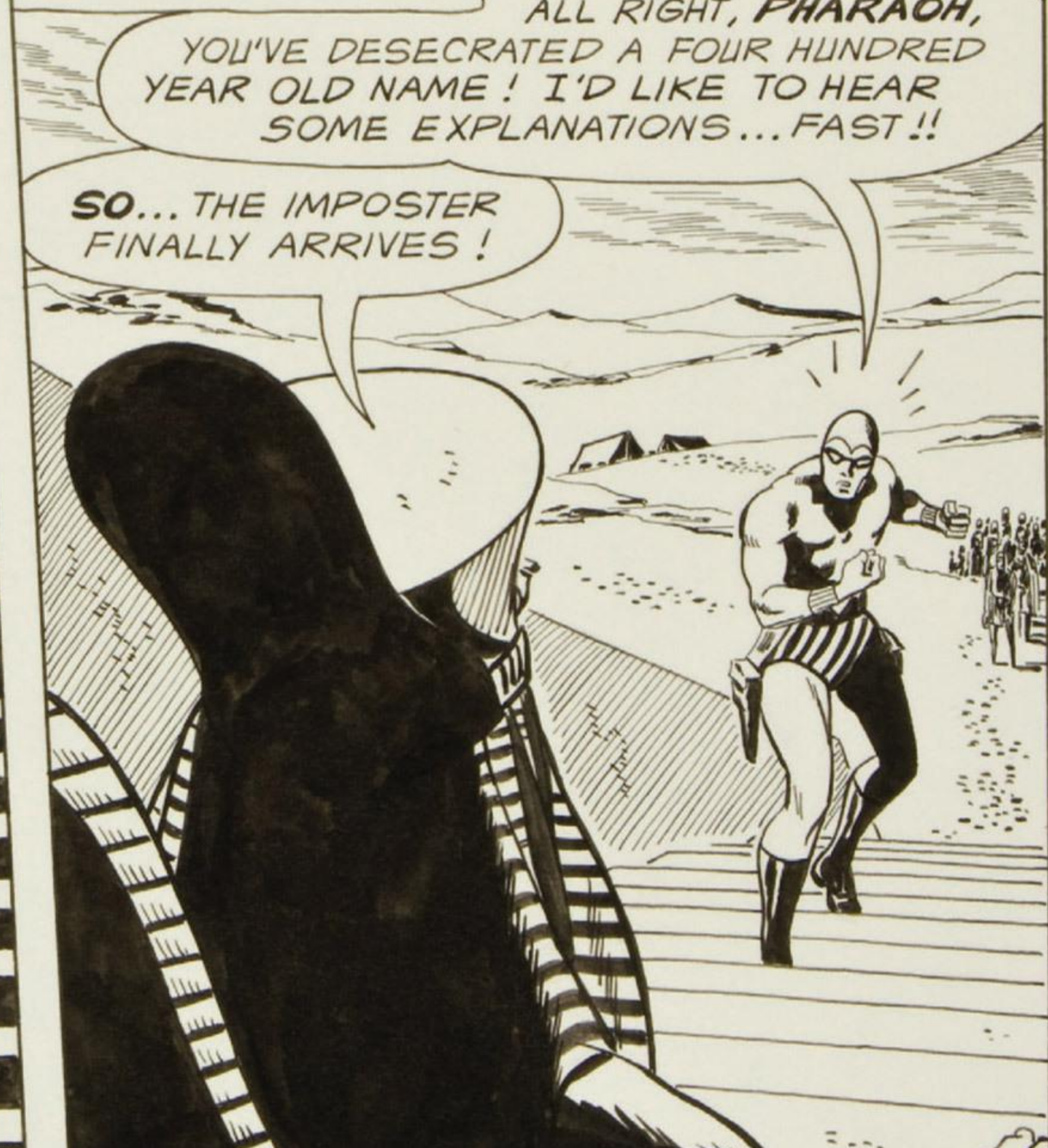
A-A **SKULL THRONE** ...DONE IN EGYPTIAN DESIGN! AND THERE'S THE "KING" PHANTOM NOW!



A FIRE OF ANGER FLASHES IN THE PHANTOM'S EYES AS HE MOUNTS THE TEMPLE STEPS...

ALL RIGHT, **PHARAOH**, YOU'VE DESECRATED A FOUR HUNDRED YEAR OLD NAME! I'D LIKE TO HEAR SOME EXPLANATIONS... FAST!!

SO... THE IMPOSTER FINALLY ARRIVES!



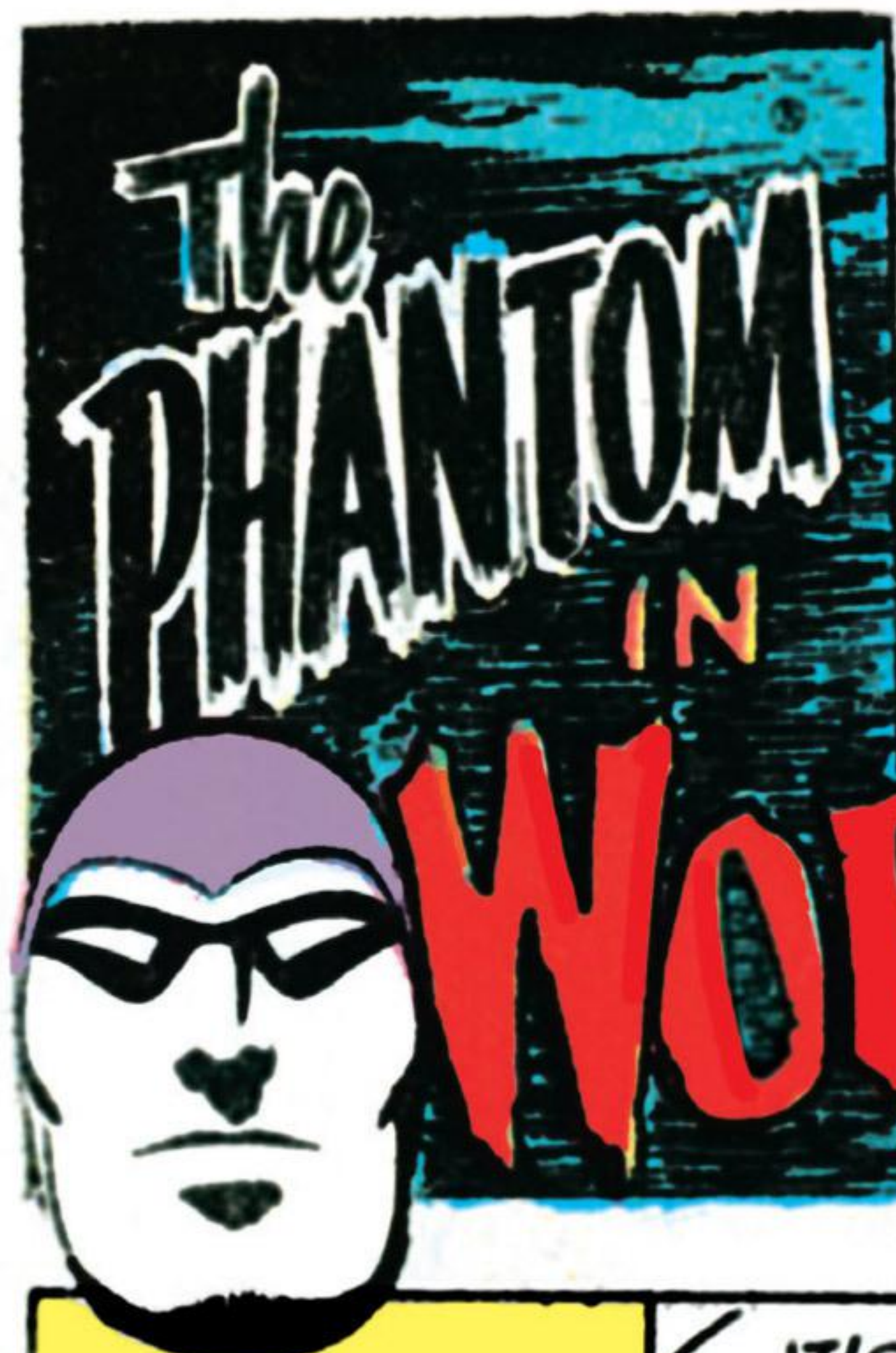
Above: original Jim Aparo artwork for Charlton's *The Phantom* #32, read the entire story in Hermes Press' *The Phantom: The Complete Series: The Charlton Years: Volume One*.



# THE PHANTOM







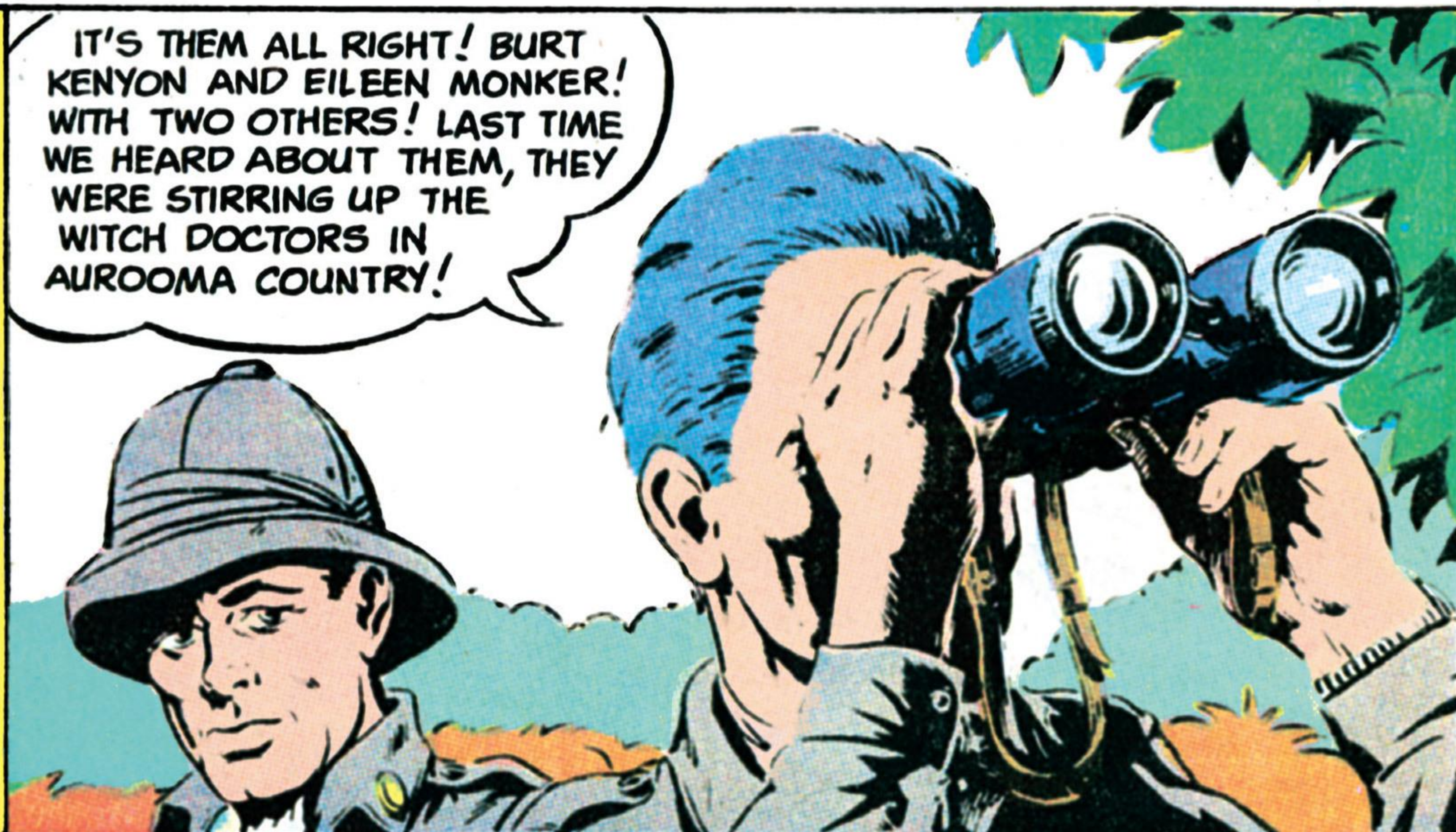
# The COLD FIRE

## WORSHIPPERS

**DIAMONDS!** TO THE NATIVES OF THE BENGALI JUNGLE, NOTHING MORE THAN A THING OF BEAUTY! BUT TO OUTSIDERS, A CHANCE AT WEALTH AND POWER! — A CHANCE WORTH ANY RISK, INCLUDING **MURDER!**

NO ONE ENTERS THE JUNGLE UNNOTICED BY THE MEN OF THE JUNGLE PATROL! USUALLY, THEIR WATCHFULNESS IS FOR THE PROTECTION OF STRANGERS — SOMETIMES IT'S THE NATIVES WHO NEED PROTECTION!

IT'S THEM ALL RIGHT! BURT KENYON AND EILEEN MONKER! WITH TWO OTHERS! LAST TIME WE HEARD ABOUT THEM, THEY WERE STIRRING UP THE WITCH DOCTORS IN AUROOMA COUNTRY!



I THINK WE BETTER FOLLOW THAT JEEP! NO TELLING WHAT THEY'RE UP TO THIS TIME!

RIGHT! I WISH WE HAD SOME HELP, THOUGH! THESE ARE TOUGH CUSTOMERS!



MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY, THE PHANTOM AND DIANA PICK UP THE TRAIL!







THEY SEEM TO BE  
HEADED FOR THE  
ISLE OF DIAMONDS!



ISN'T THAT WHERE  
WE SAW THE  
"COLD FIRE  
WORSHIPPERS"?

YES! THEY'RE  
GENTLE PEOPLE--  
EASY PREY FOR  
DIAMOND HUNTERS!



I THINK I'D BETTER TRY TO  
HEAD OUR VISITORS OFF, BEFORE  
THEY SET THEIR GREEDY EYES  
ON THOSE COLD FIRE  
DIAMONDS!



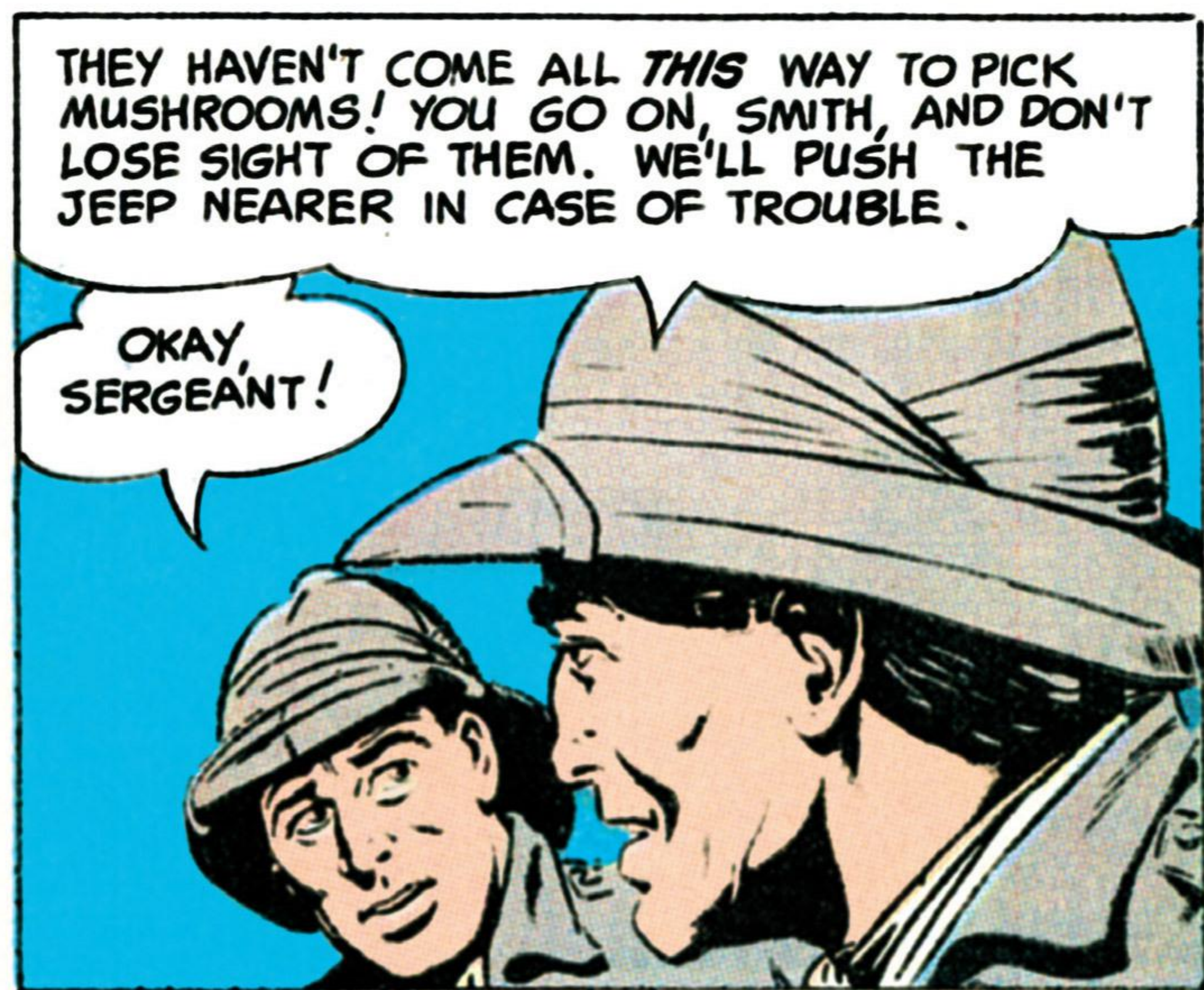
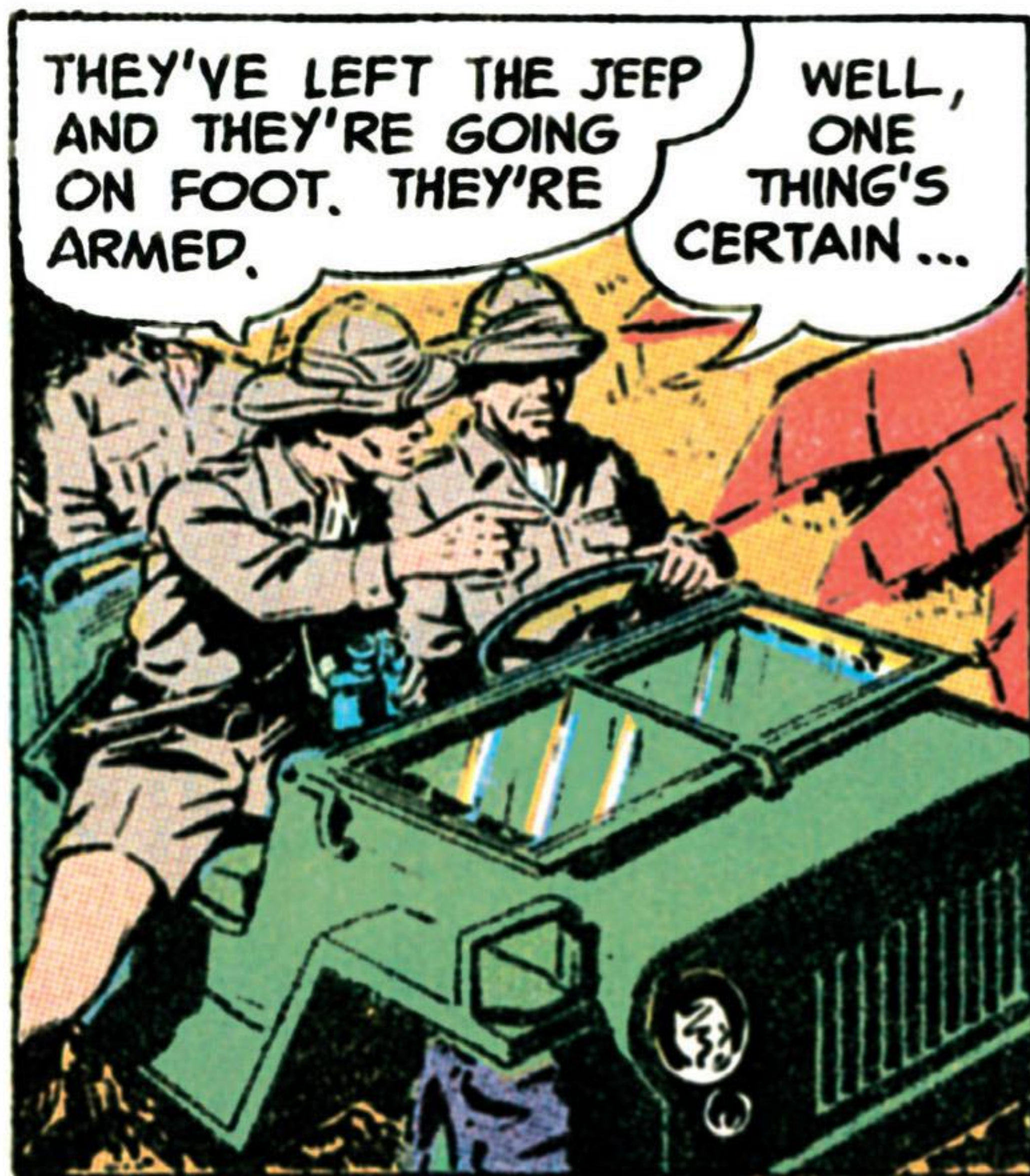
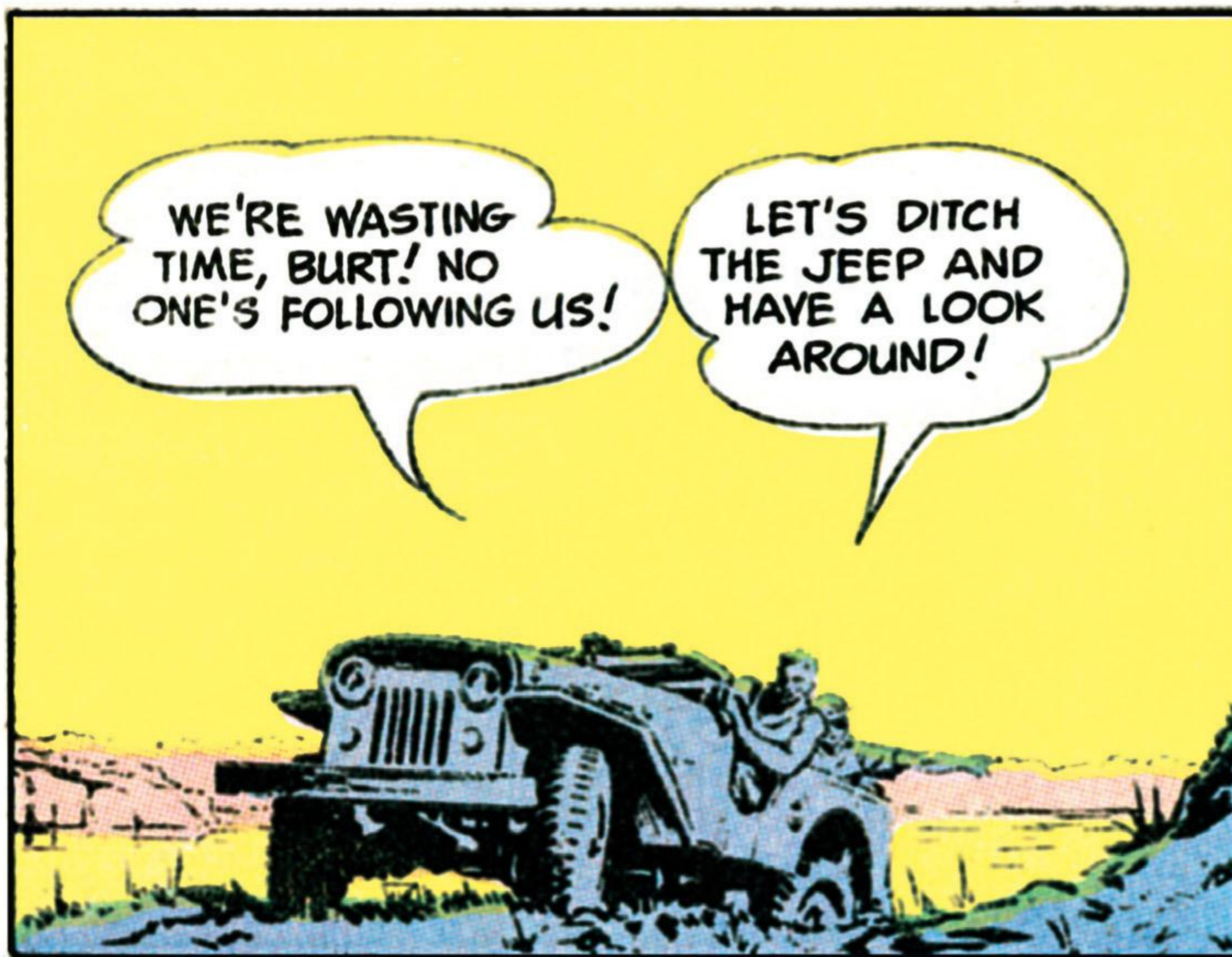
WAIT A MINUTE!  
— I HEAR  
SOMETHING!



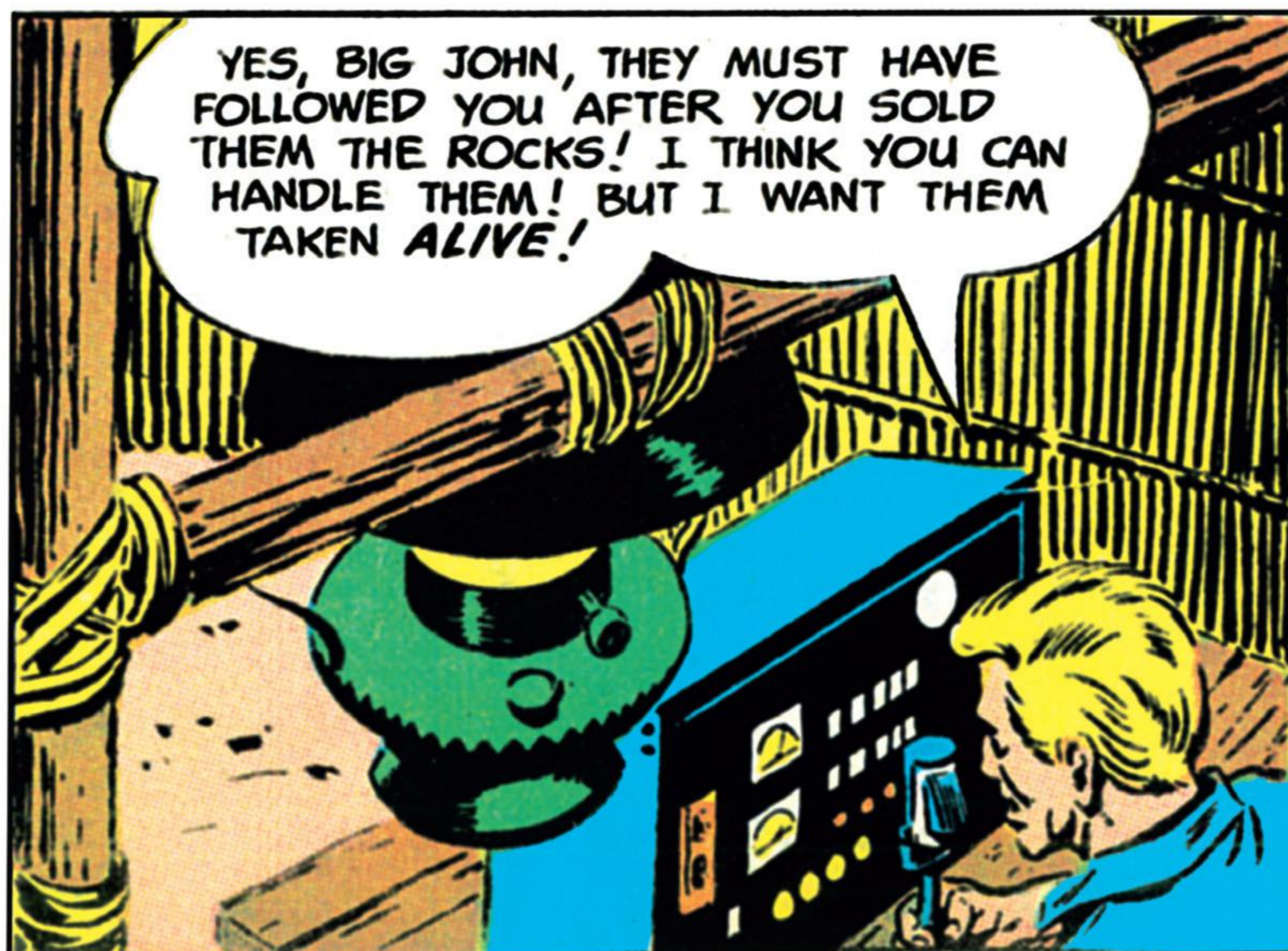
MAYBE OUR FRIENDS  
ARE LOST! — I  
HEAR THEIR JEEP  
COMING BACK!

WHAT HEARING  
YOU'VE GOT! —  
I DIDN'T HEAR  
A THING!











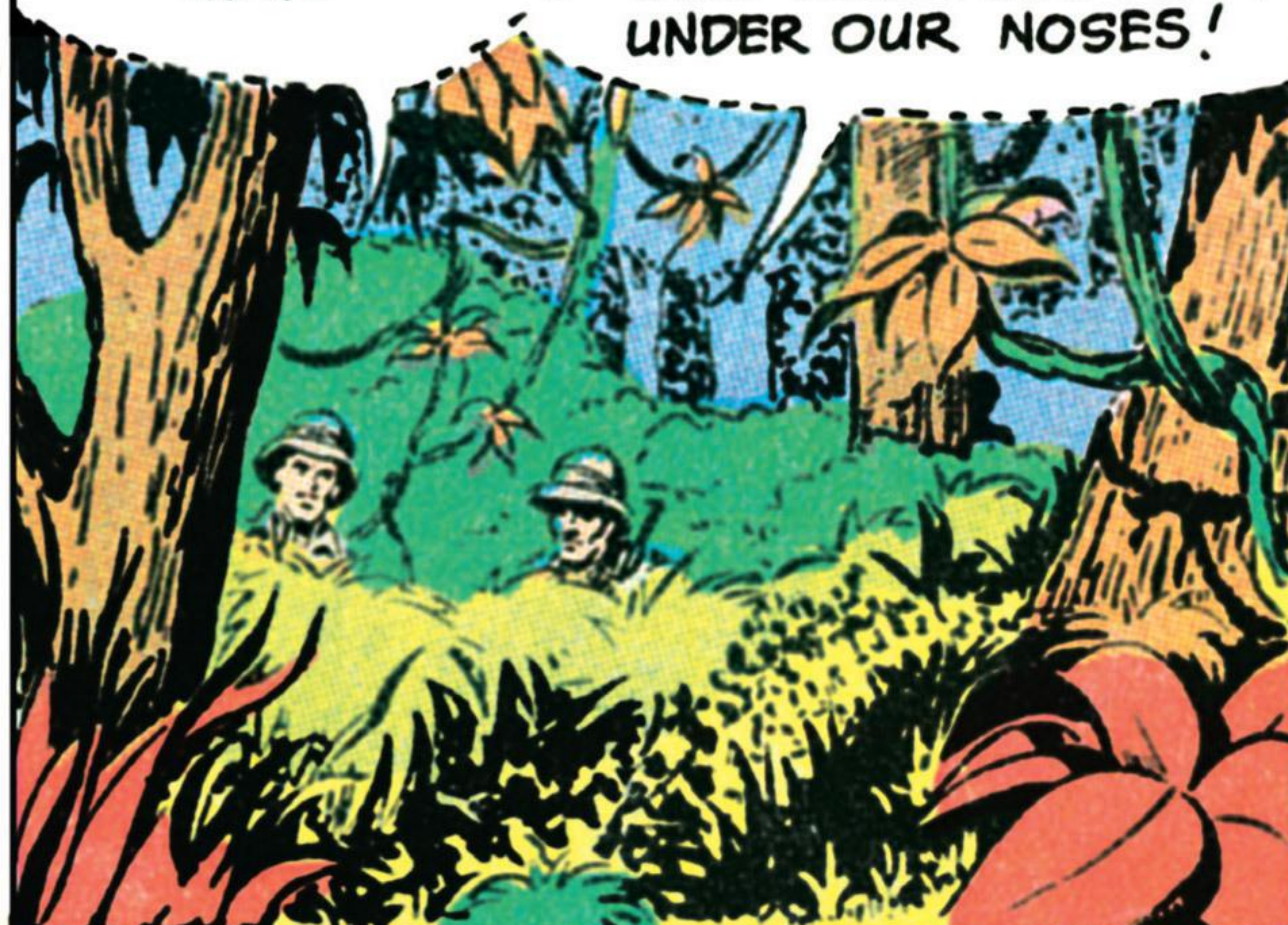
**THE CAPTURE IS EASIER THAN PREDICTED!**

I SUPPOSE STOUT WANTS US ON THE ISLAND. DO WE HAVE TO SWIM?

OH, WE'VE GOT ALL THE MODERN CONVENIENCES OUT HERE! LISTEN....



IT LOOKS LIKE WE BUMPED INTO SOMETHING! A HELICOPTER! WHAT CAN WE DO, BIG! HEY, WHAT'S THAT? SERGEANT? THEY'LL TAKE THEM AWAY RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES!



I'D BETTER GET OVER TO THE ISLAND! I'LL USE THE SECRET PASSAGE!



BUT I CAN'T LET THE PATROL INTERFERE! I'LL LEAVE THEM THE MESSAGE!

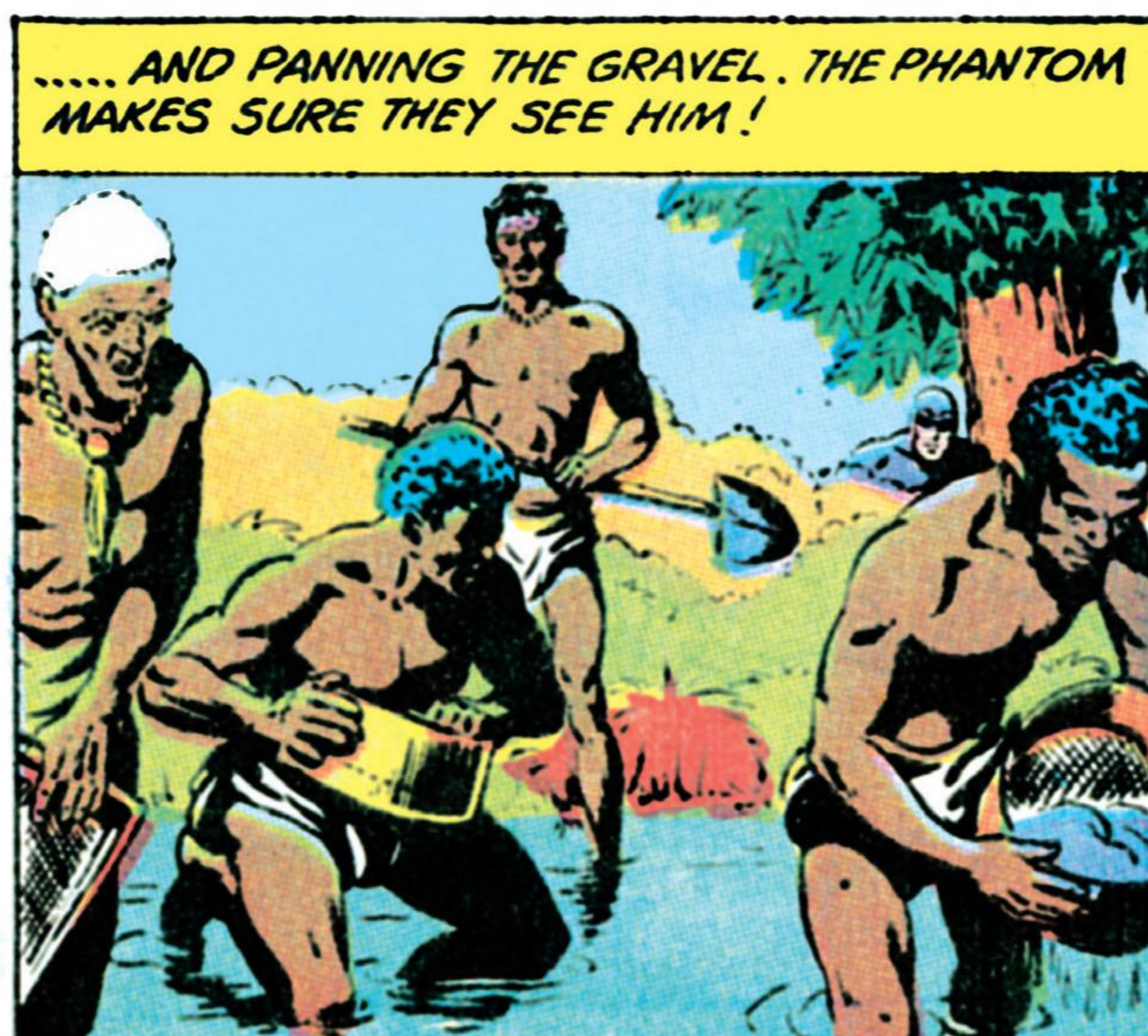
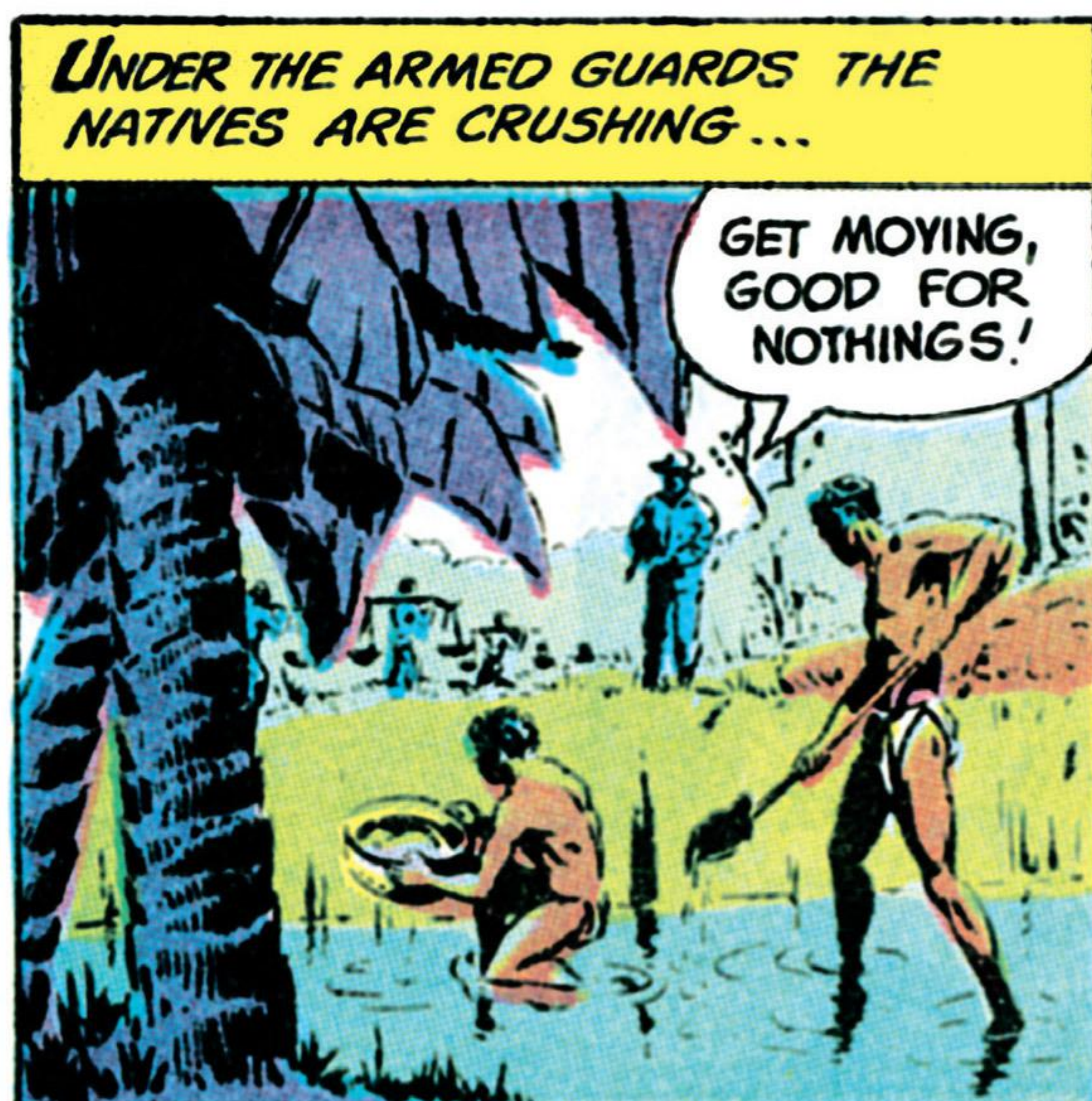
**THE PHANTOM WRITES A HASTY MESSAGE ON A PIECE OF BARK, THEN MOVES OFF SWIFTLY AND SILENTLY...**

I HOPE THEY HAVEN'T HARMED THE NATIVES!

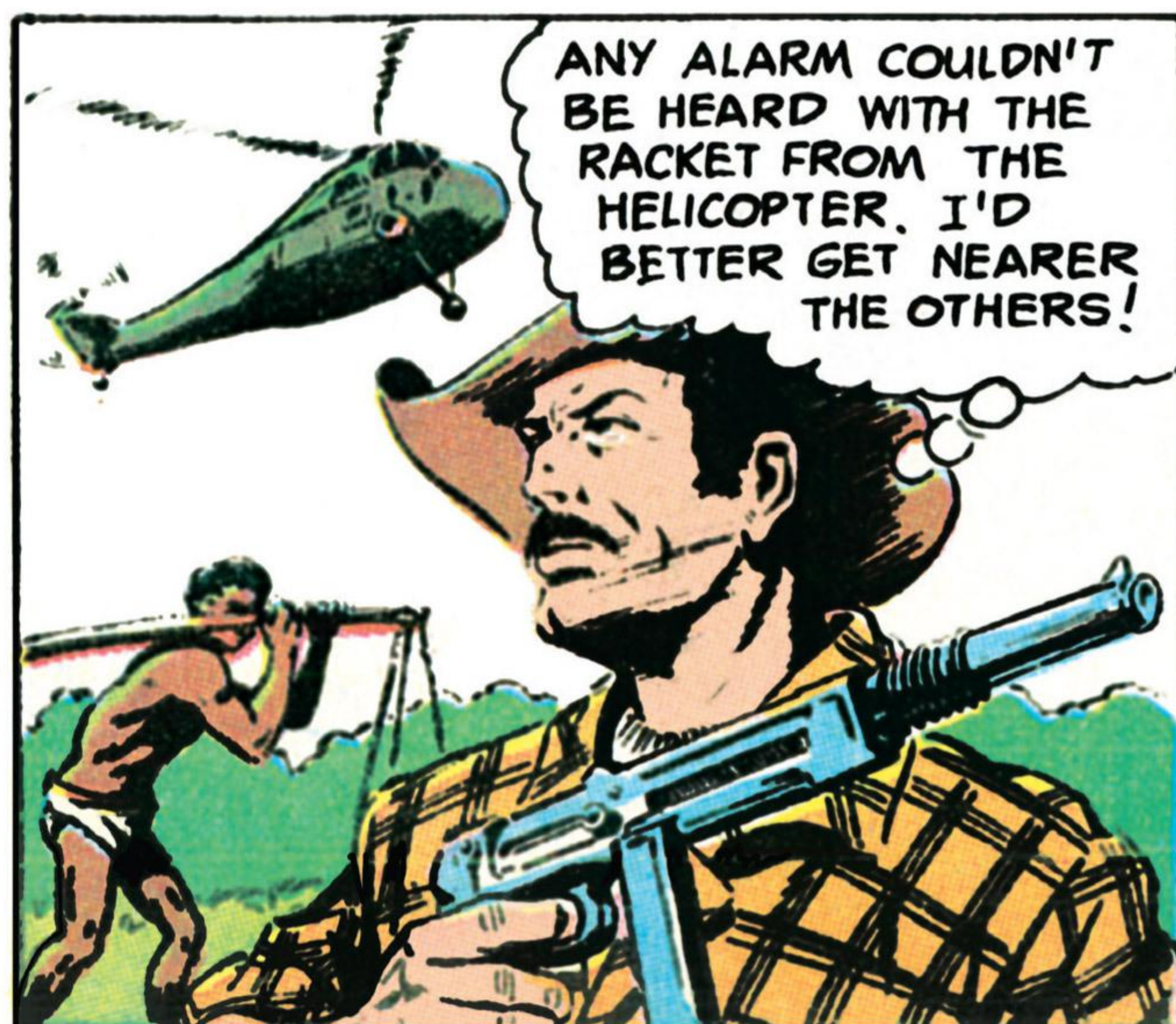


...HE COMES TO A CLIFF FACE WHERE HE ROLLS AWAY A HUGE BOULDER, OPENING UP THE DARK TUNNEL LEADING UNDER THE RIVER...













OUT OF THE WAY,  
RED! I'LL  
FIX HIM!

I GUESS HE DIDN'T  
HEAR YOU...



IS *THIS* FAR ENOUGH  
OUT OF THE WAY  
FOR YOU?

THE LAST GUARD OUT OF THE WAY, THE  
PHANTOM ORDERS THE NATIVES TO TAKE  
OVER, THEN SETS OUT TO FIND THEIR KING...



WHY DIDN'T YOU  
LET ME KNOW  
WHAT WAS  
HAPPENING,  
SABAHN?

I DIDN'T  
*DARE* LET  
ANYONE GO, O  
GHOST WHO WALKS!



OUR WOMEN AND CHILDREN  
ARE KEPT UNDER GUARD!  
THEY THREATENED TO  
KILL TEN FOR EVERY  
MAN WHO WOULDN'T  
WORK...

I SEE,  
SABAHAN! THEN  
WE STILL HAVE  
MORE TO DO!









**A TIGER! DEVIL BRAVELY FACES THE DANGER! THE TIGER ADVANCES, ROARING!**

**GET BACK, DEVIL. HE'LL KILL YOU!**



**WITH A POWERFUL BLOW OF ITS PAW, THE BEAST HAS DEVIL AT ITS MERCY... DIANA FIRES THE GUN AGAIN AND AGAIN TO SAVE HIM.**



**PISTOL SHOTS! I'D BETTER INVESTIGATE, SERGEANT!**

**NO! OUR ORDERS ARE TO STAY RIGHT HERE... IT COULD BE A TRICK!**



**MORE SHOTS. OVER HERE. COME ON!**

**IT'S ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER TODAY!**

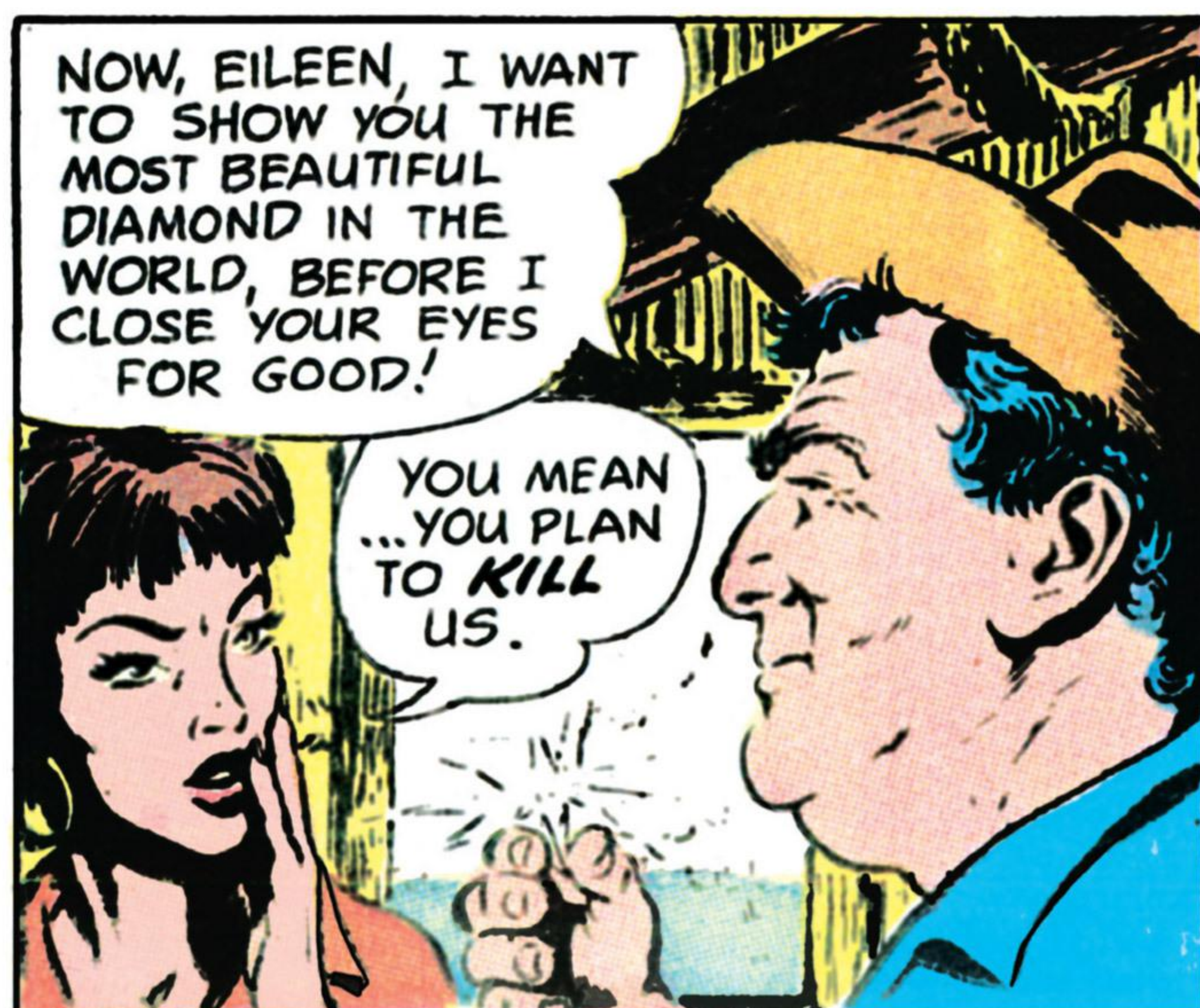
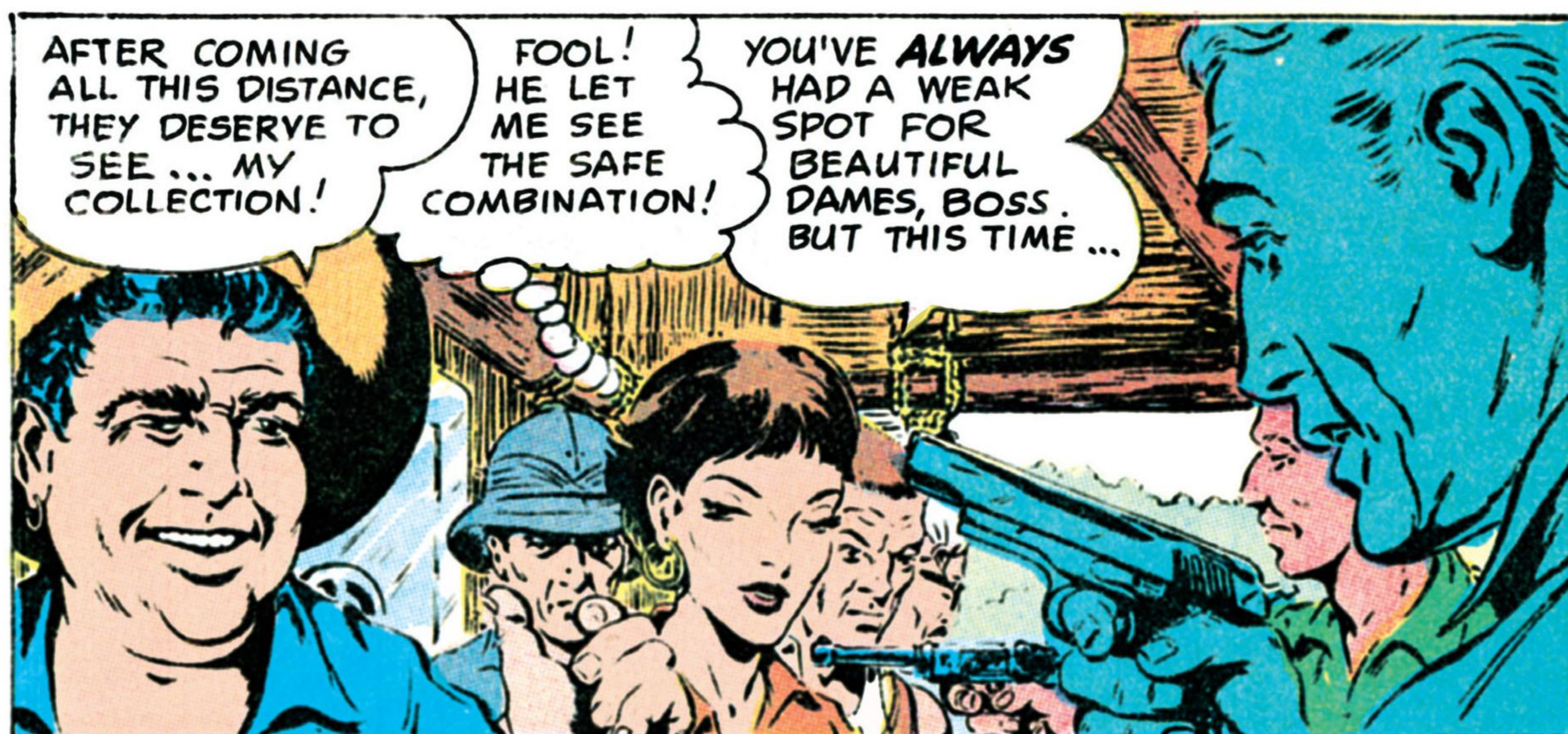


**THANK HEAVENS! HE'S NOT WOUNDED!**

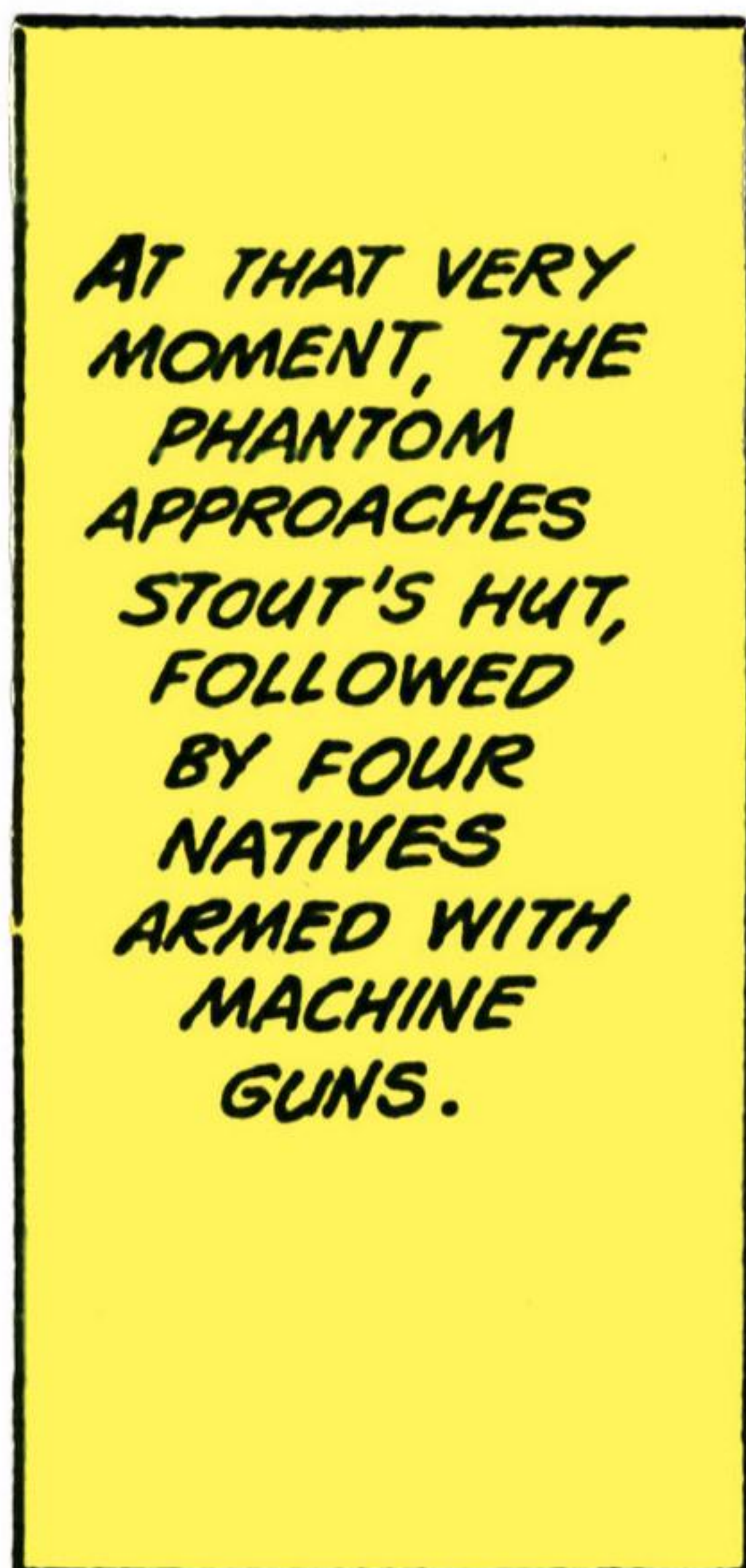
**IT'S A GIRL!... AND SHE'S KILLED A TIGER!**

**... THAT'S A WOLF SHE'S PETTING! WHAT SORT OF GIRL IS THIS?**

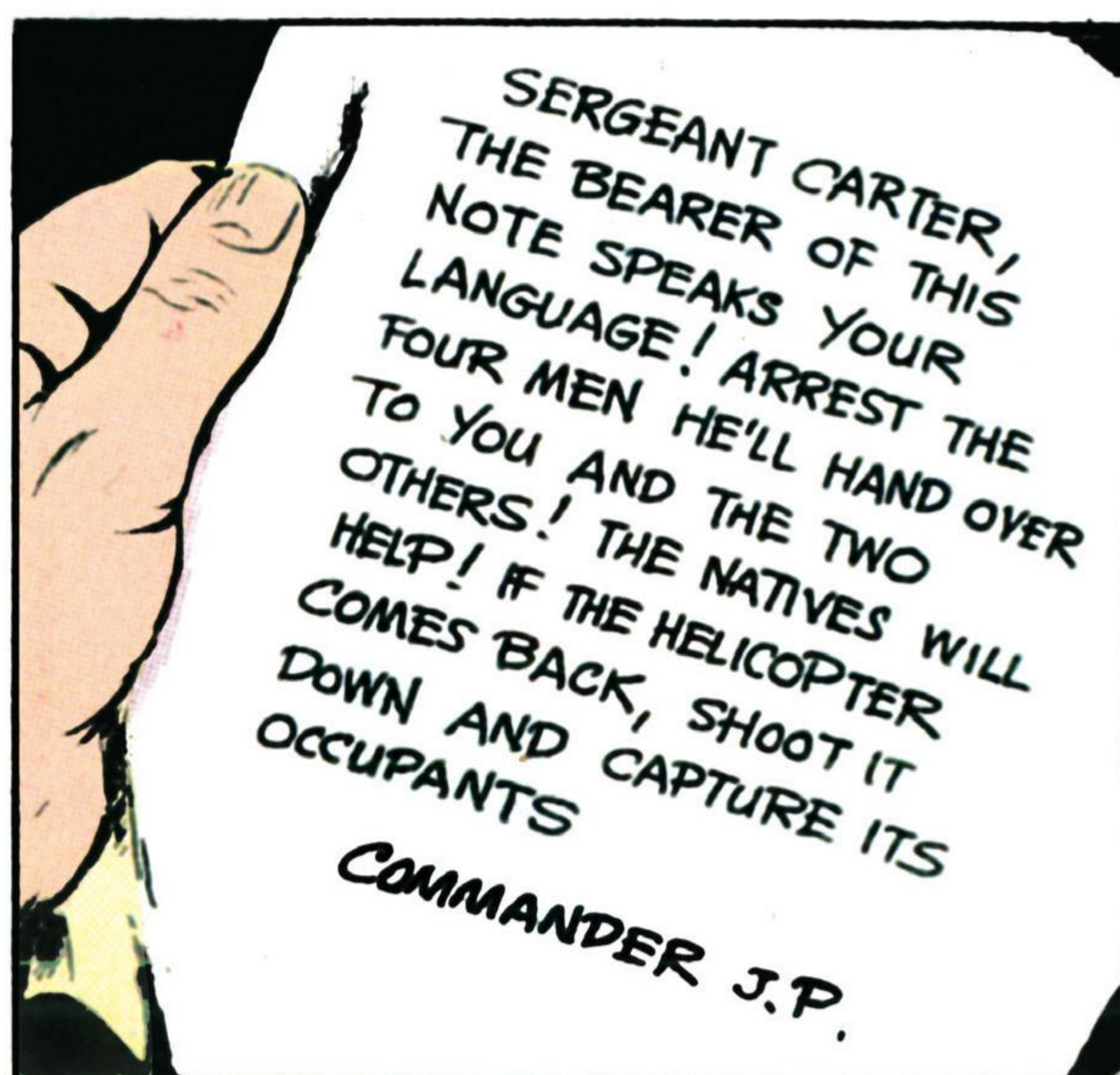
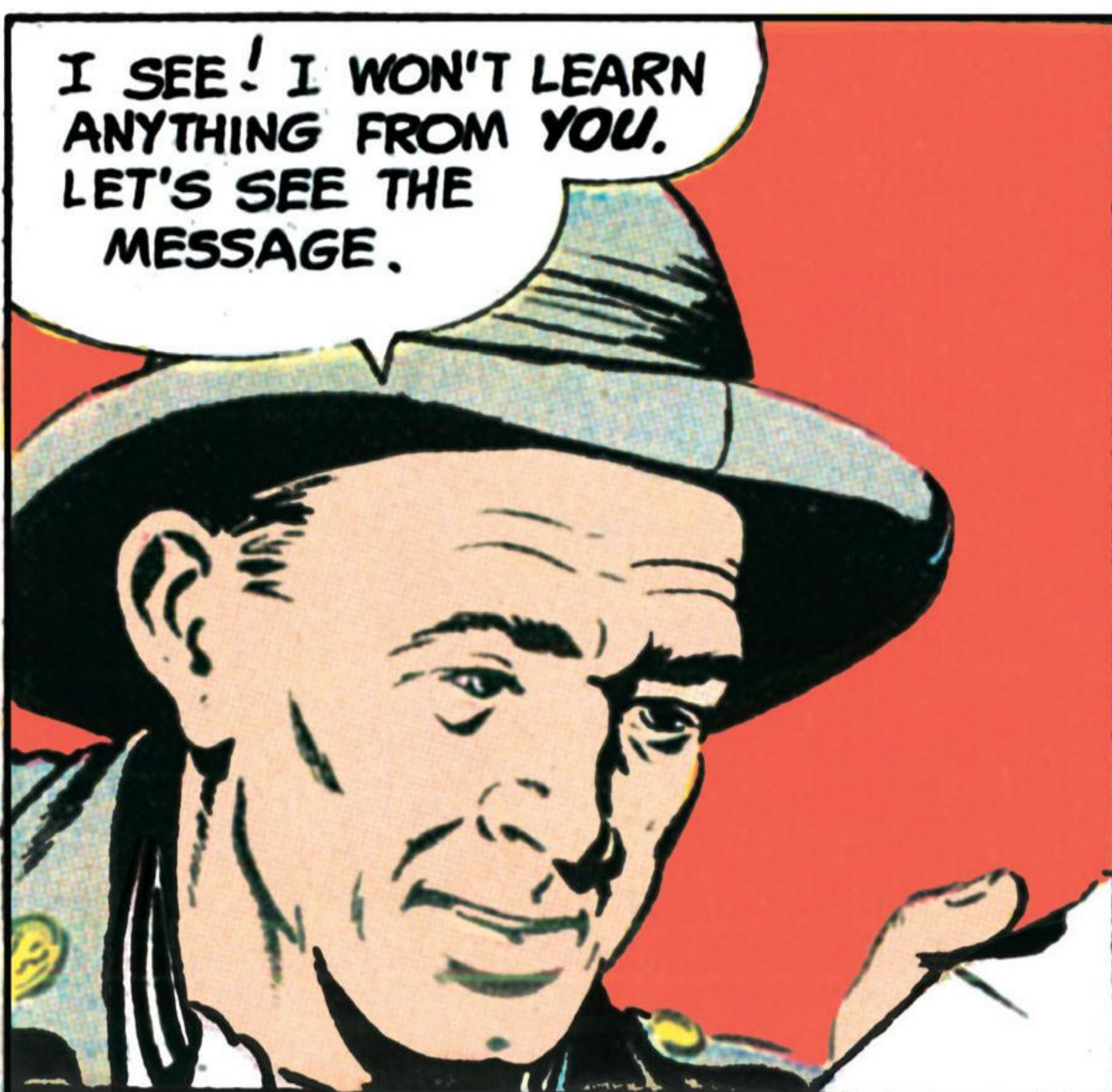
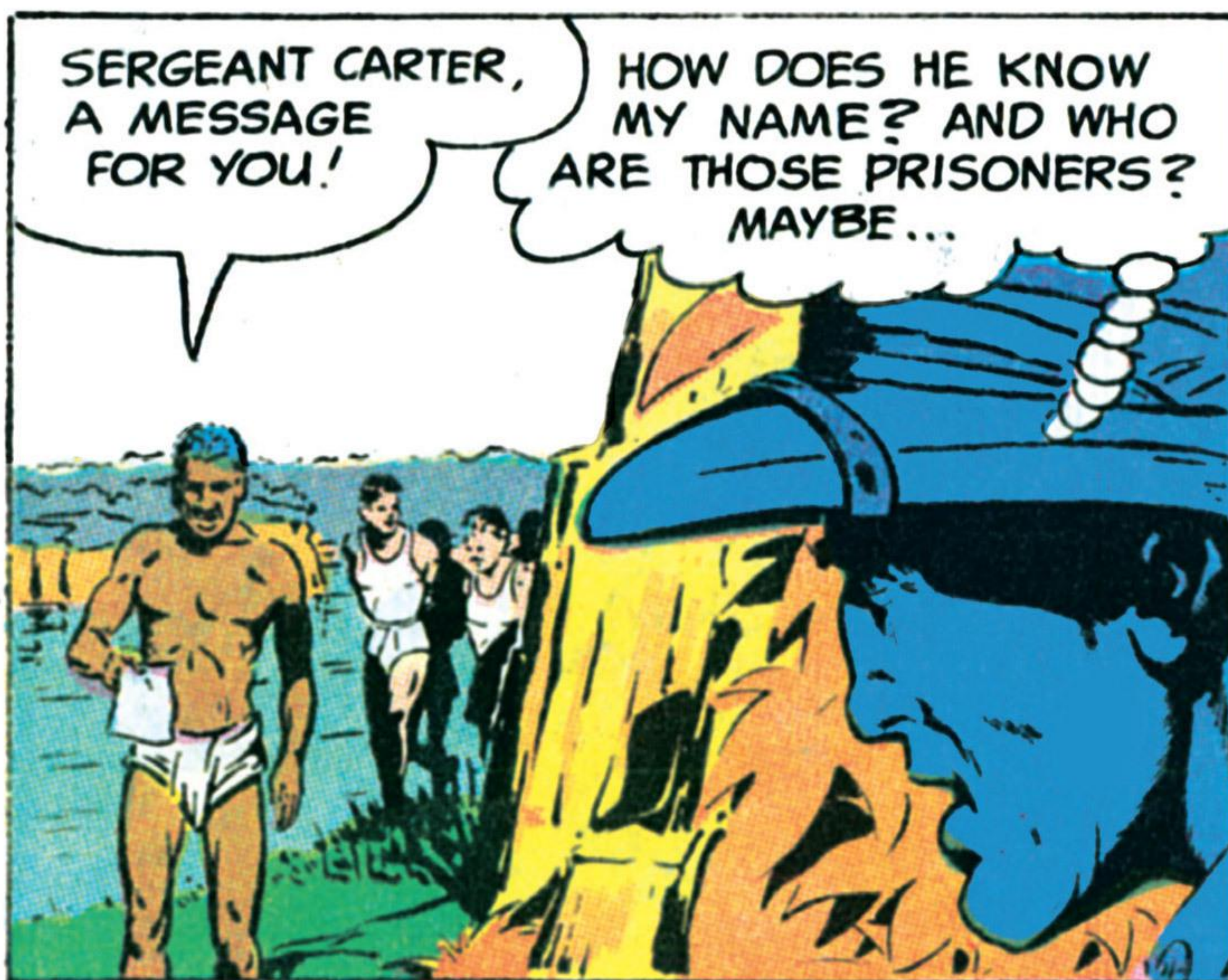




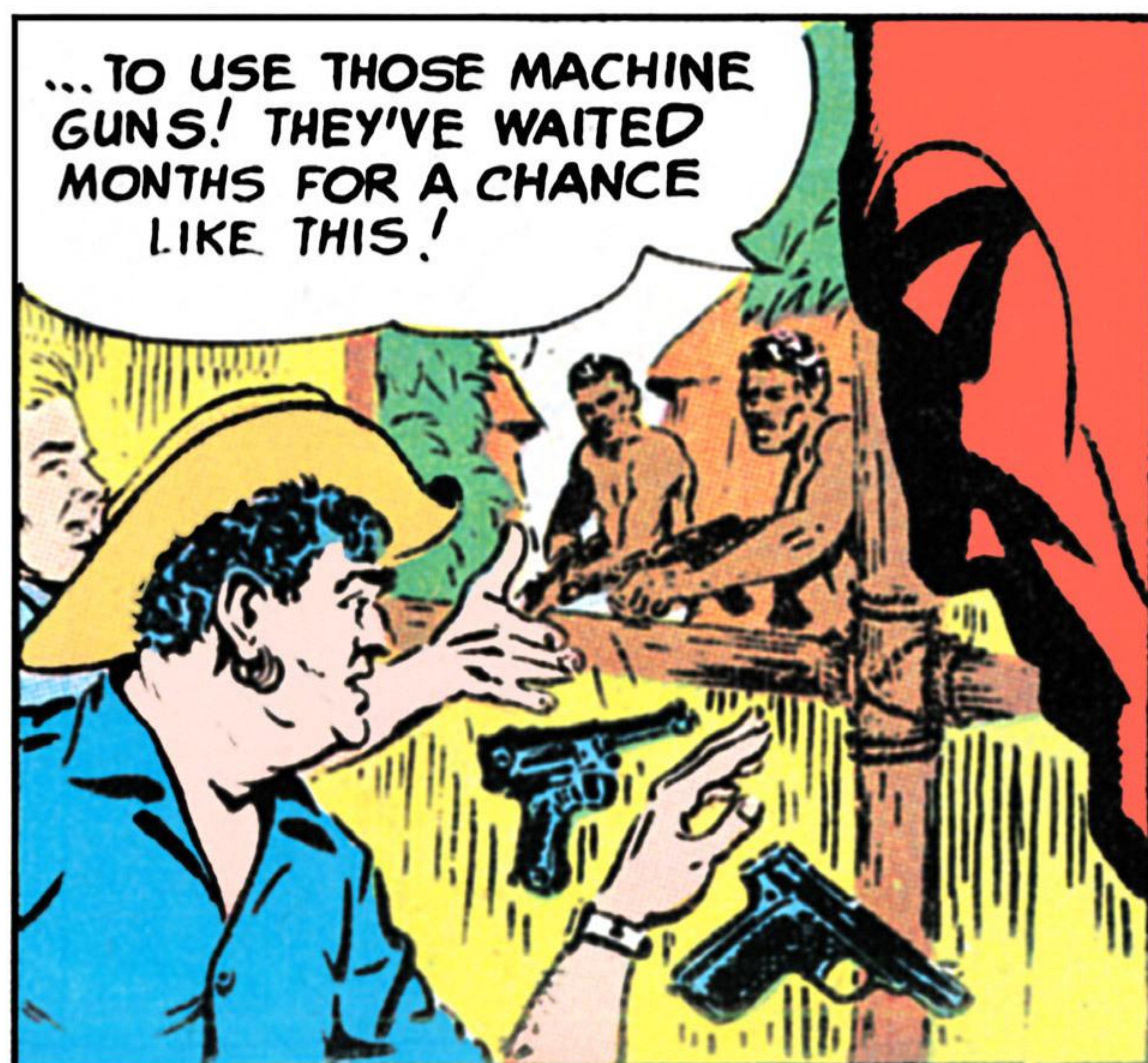
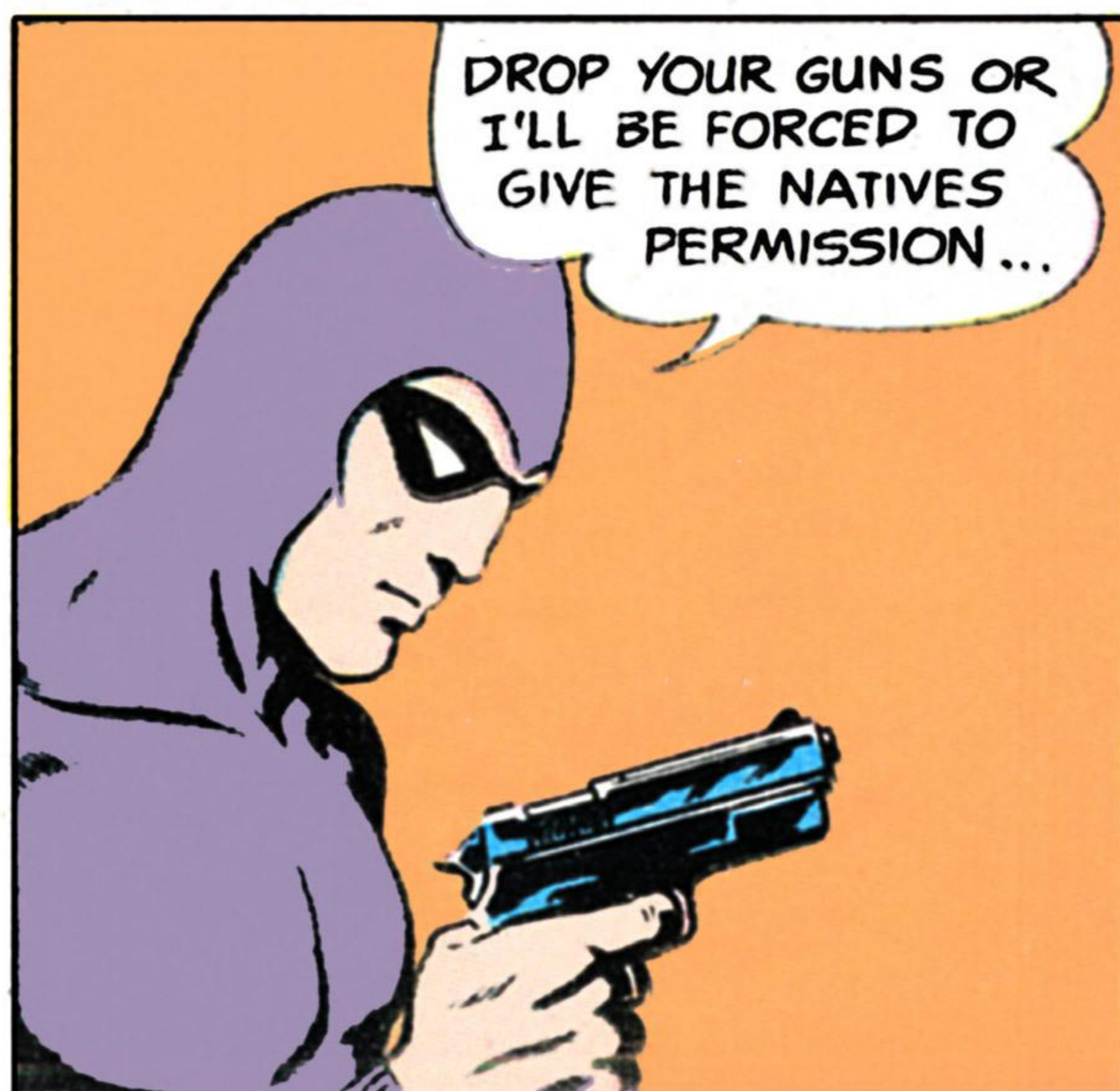
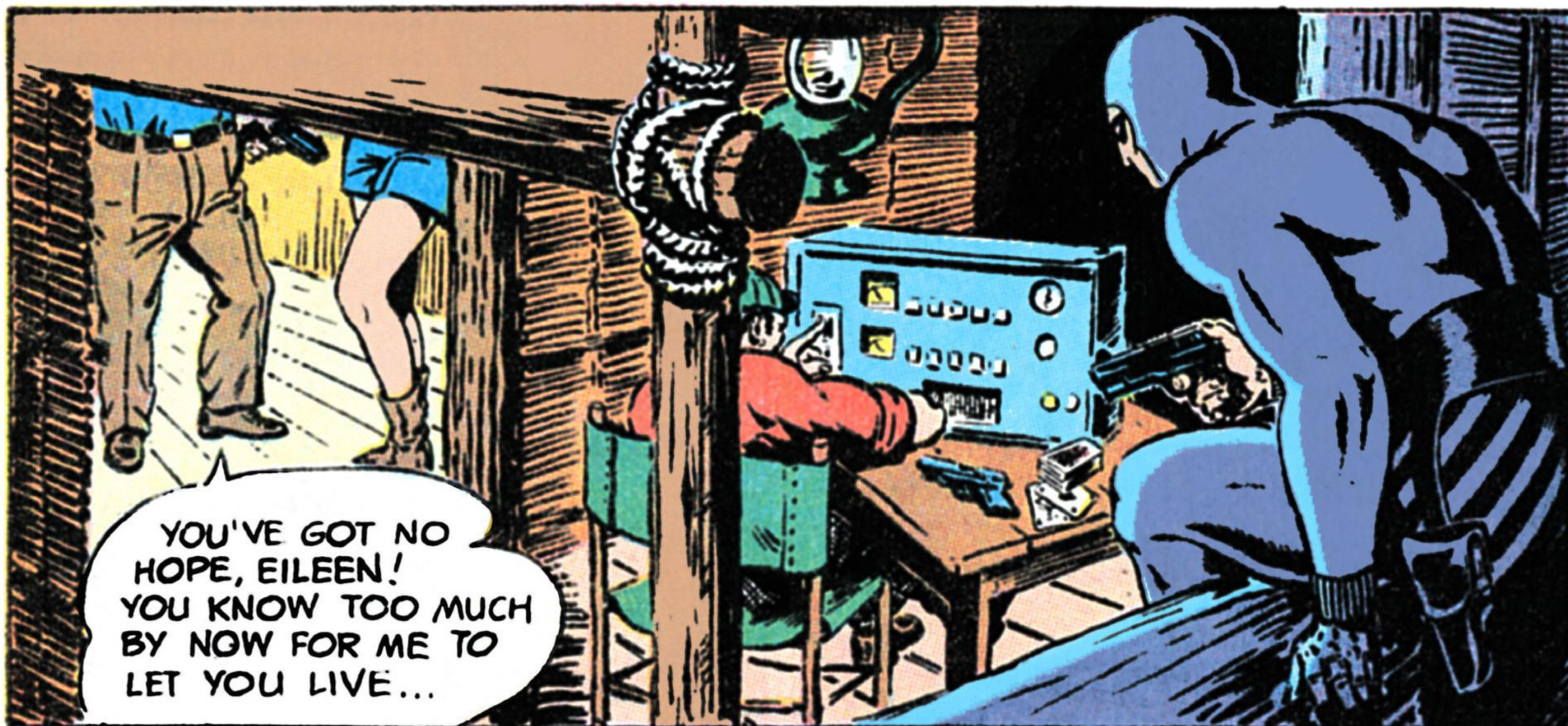






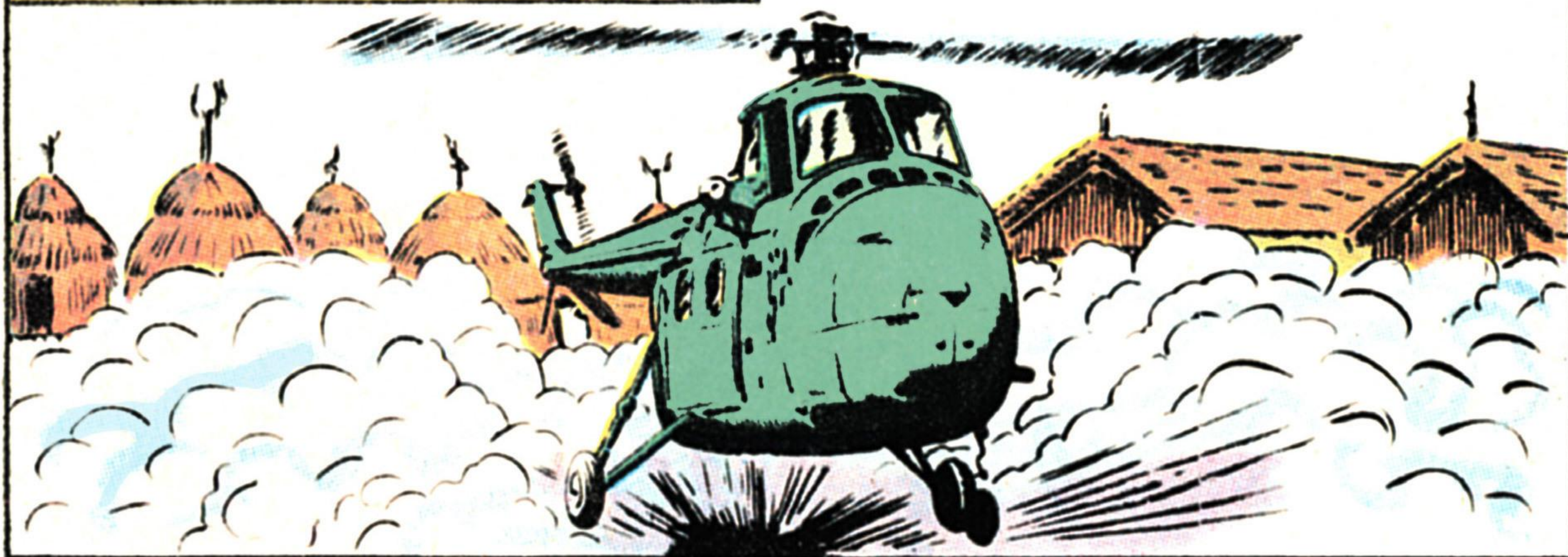








OUTSIDE THE HELICOPTER IS ARRIVING AGAIN! THE PHANTOM WATCHES IT FROM A WINDOW IN THE HUT...



DIANA!

SO THE DAME'S A FRIEND OF HIS!



ALL OF YOU KEEP QUIET AND **DON'T MOVE!**



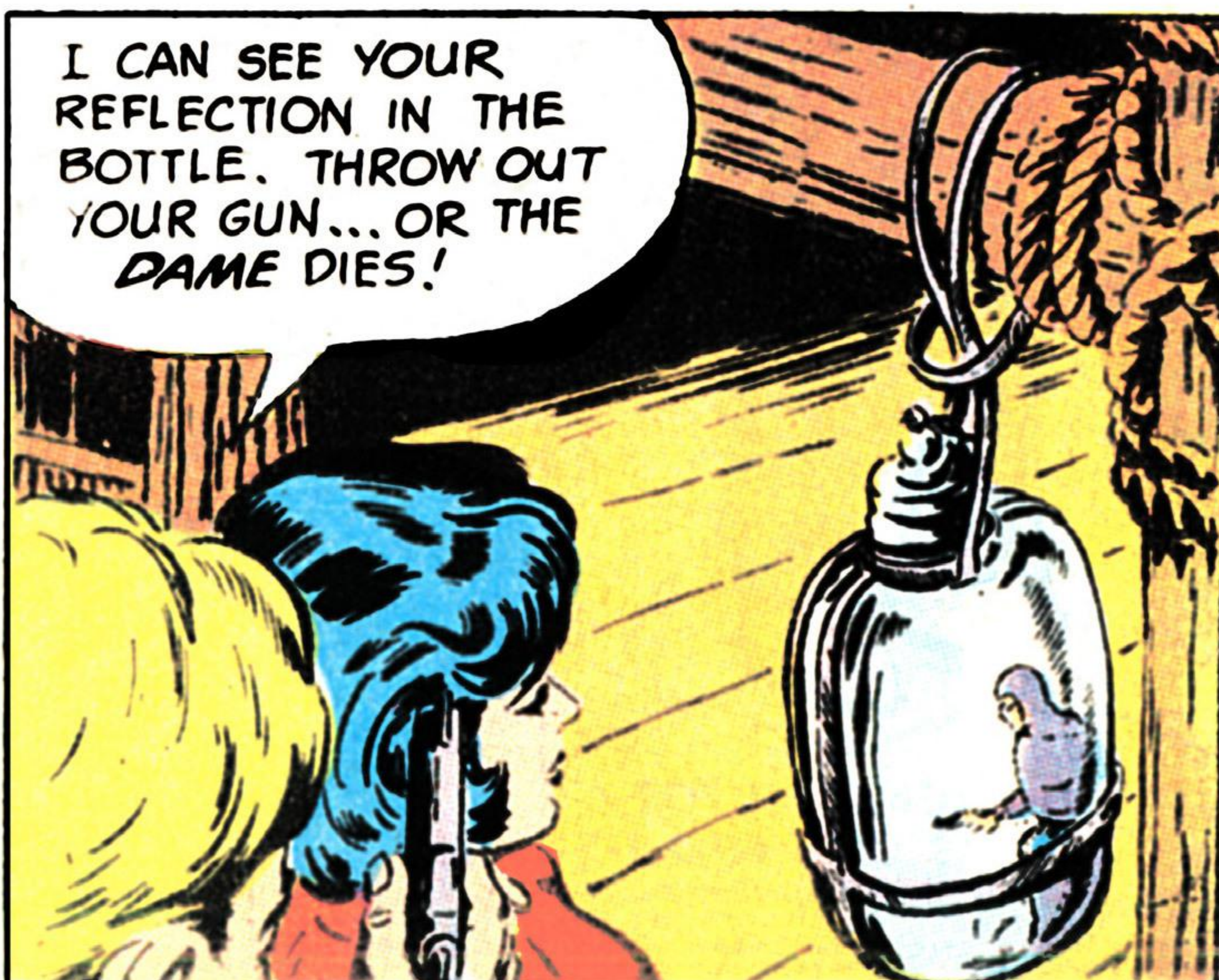
WAIT A MINUTE, BABY!

?



THE HELICOPTER PILOT SUDDENLY STOPS IN HIS TRACKS!

I CAN SEE YOUR REFLECTION IN THE BOTTLE. THROW OUT YOUR GUN... OR THE DAME DIES!





The  
PHANTOM



by  
LEE FALK

IN

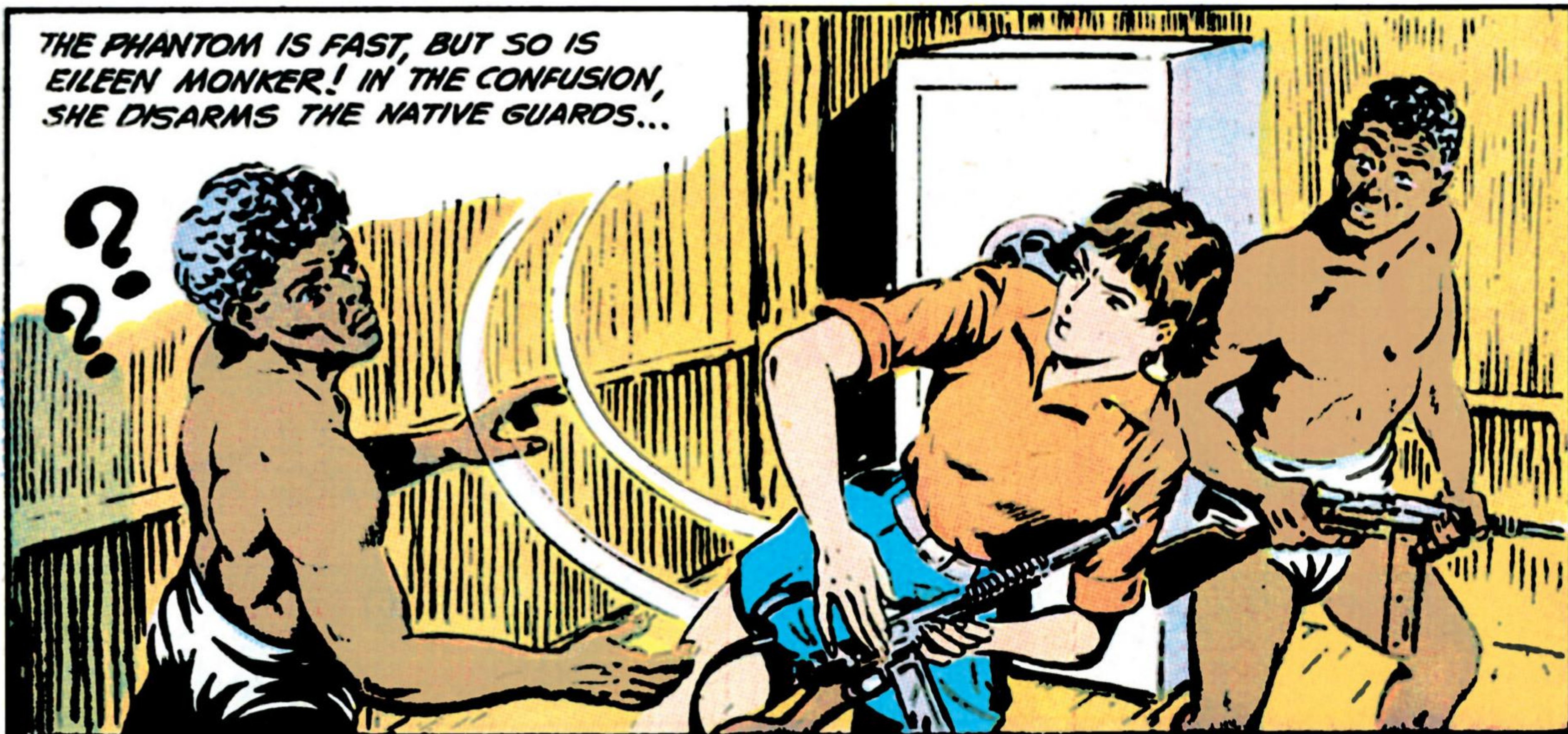
# The COLD FIRE WORSHIPPERS

PART II

AS THE PHANTOM ROUNDS UP A GANG OF DIAMOND THIEVES, ONE OF THEM MANAGES TO CAPTURE DIANA PALMER! HE ATTEMPTS TO USE HER AS A PAWN TO SAVE HIS FRIENDS, BUT DOESN'T RECKON WITH THE LIGHTNING-FAST REFLEXES OF THE GHOST WHO WALKS!



THE PHANTOM IS FAST, BUT SO IS EILEEN MONKER! IN THE CONFUSION, SHE DISARMS THE NATIVE GUARDS...







ALL RIGHT,  
EVERYBODY—  
NOW IT'S *MY*  
PARTY!

ALTHOUGH THE MACHINE  
GUNS ARE NOT LOADED,  
THE PHANTOM OBEYS...



YOU WIN, EILEEN!  
I CAN'T ARGUE WITH  
MACHINE GUNS!

GOOD JOB,  
EILEEN!  
NOW UNTIE  
US!



WATCH OUT, EILEEN. SO FAR YOU'VE  
DONE NOTHING YOU CAN BE  
ARRESTED FOR!



I'VE HEARD OF YOU,  
PHANTOM! YOU'D  
HAVE ME FALL IN A  
TRAP... IT'S BETTER  
THIS WAY!

THIS ISN'T LIKE  
HIM! WHY  
DOESN'T HE  
FIGHT BACK?

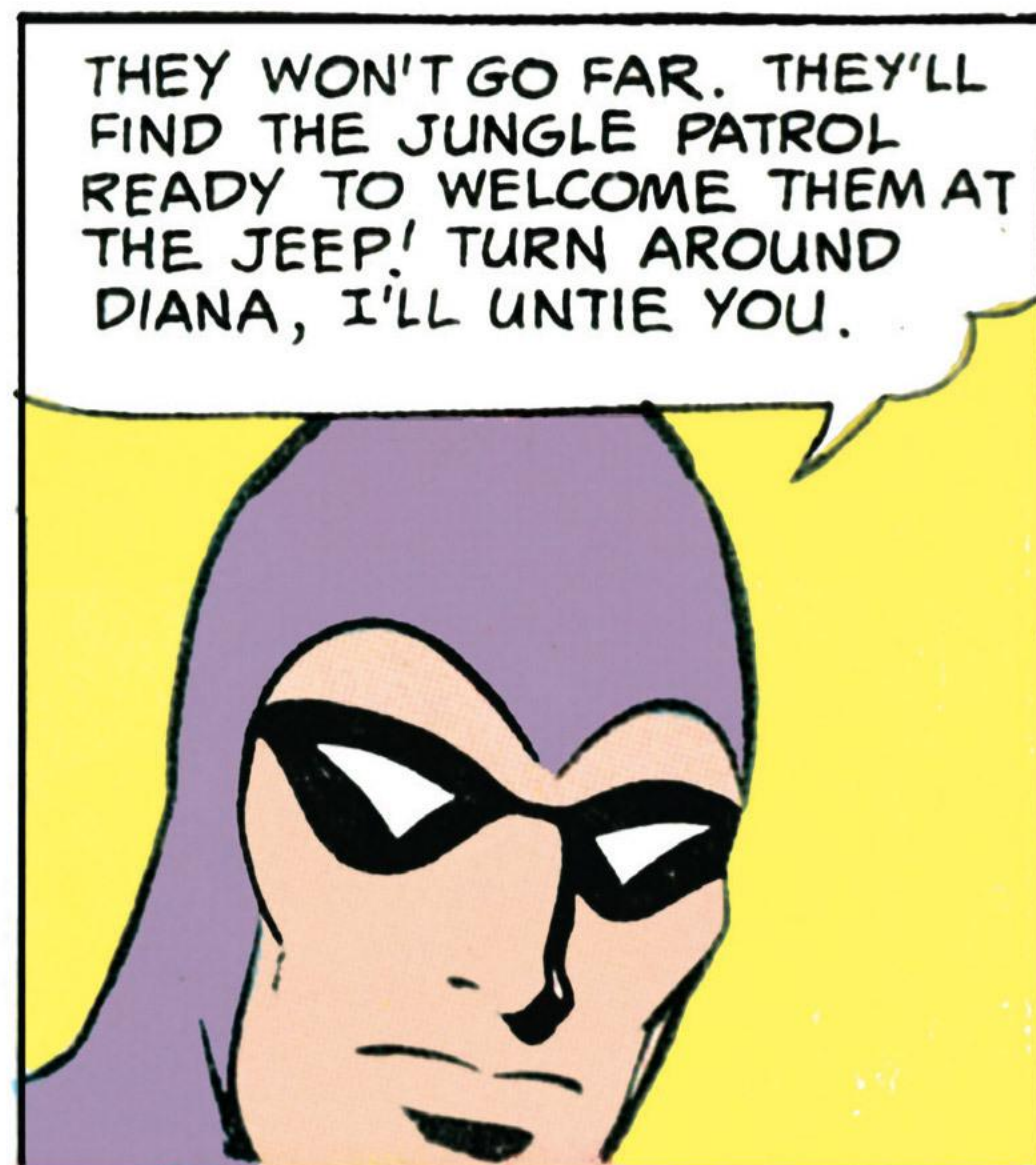


DO AS YOU LIKE. BUT SOON  
YOU'LL WISH YOU HAD  
LISTENED TO ME! THEN  
IT'LL BE TOO LATE!









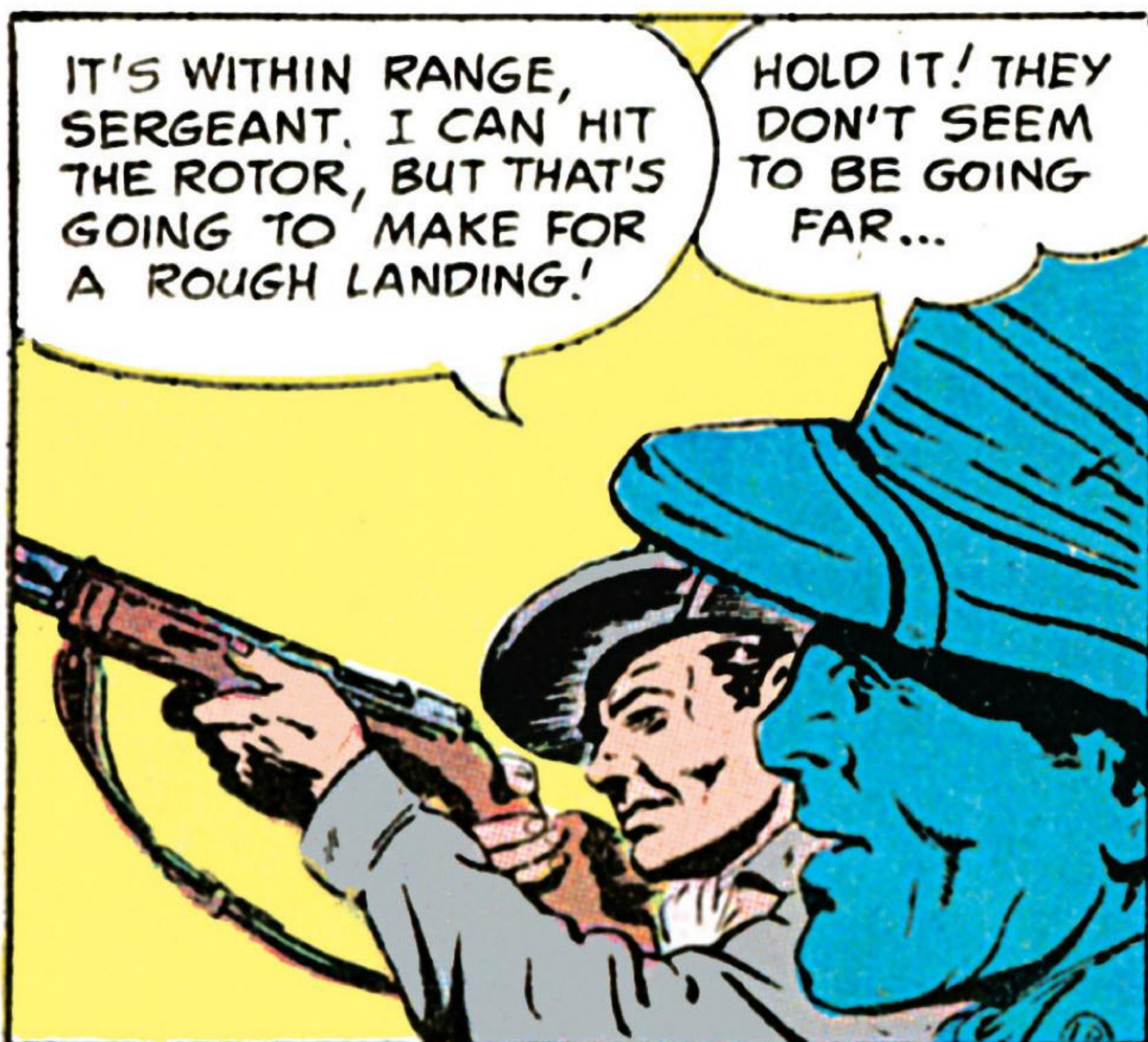




ACROSS THE RIVER, THE HELICOPTER SWOOPS INTO THE WAITING ARMS OF THE JUNGLE PATROL!

ONE BY ONE THEY'RE WIPING US OUT. IF **ONLY** I COULD GET TO THE RADIO!

JUST **TRY** IT! THESE SAVAGES LOOK AS THOUGH THEY'D LIKE TO TEAR US TO PIECES!

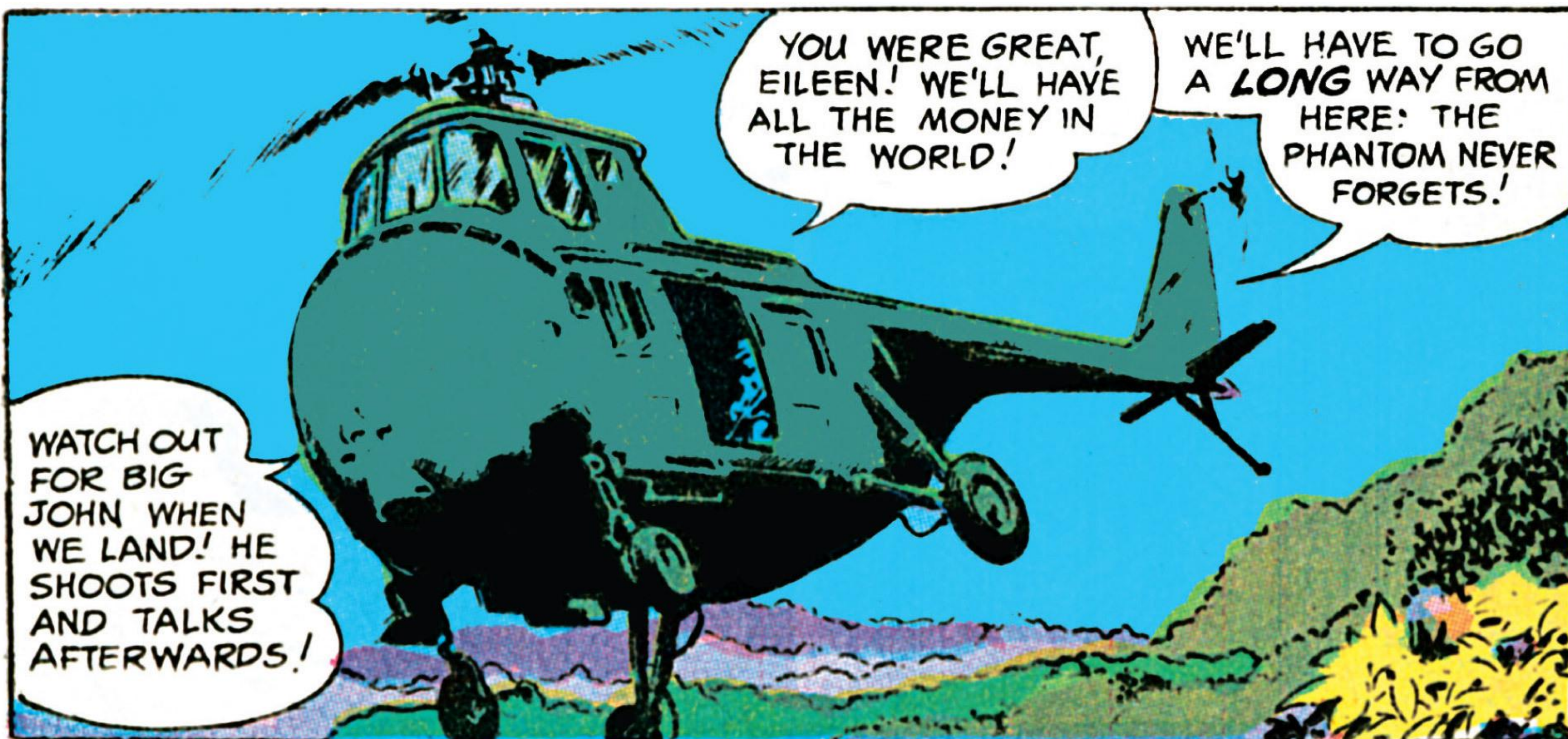


IT'S WITHIN RANGE, SERGEANT. I CAN HIT THE ROTOR, BUT THAT'S GOING TO MAKE FOR A ROUGH LANDING!

HOLD IT! THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE GOING FAR...



THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY... THEY'RE COMING DOWN... THEY'RE GOING TO LAND IN THE CLEARING!

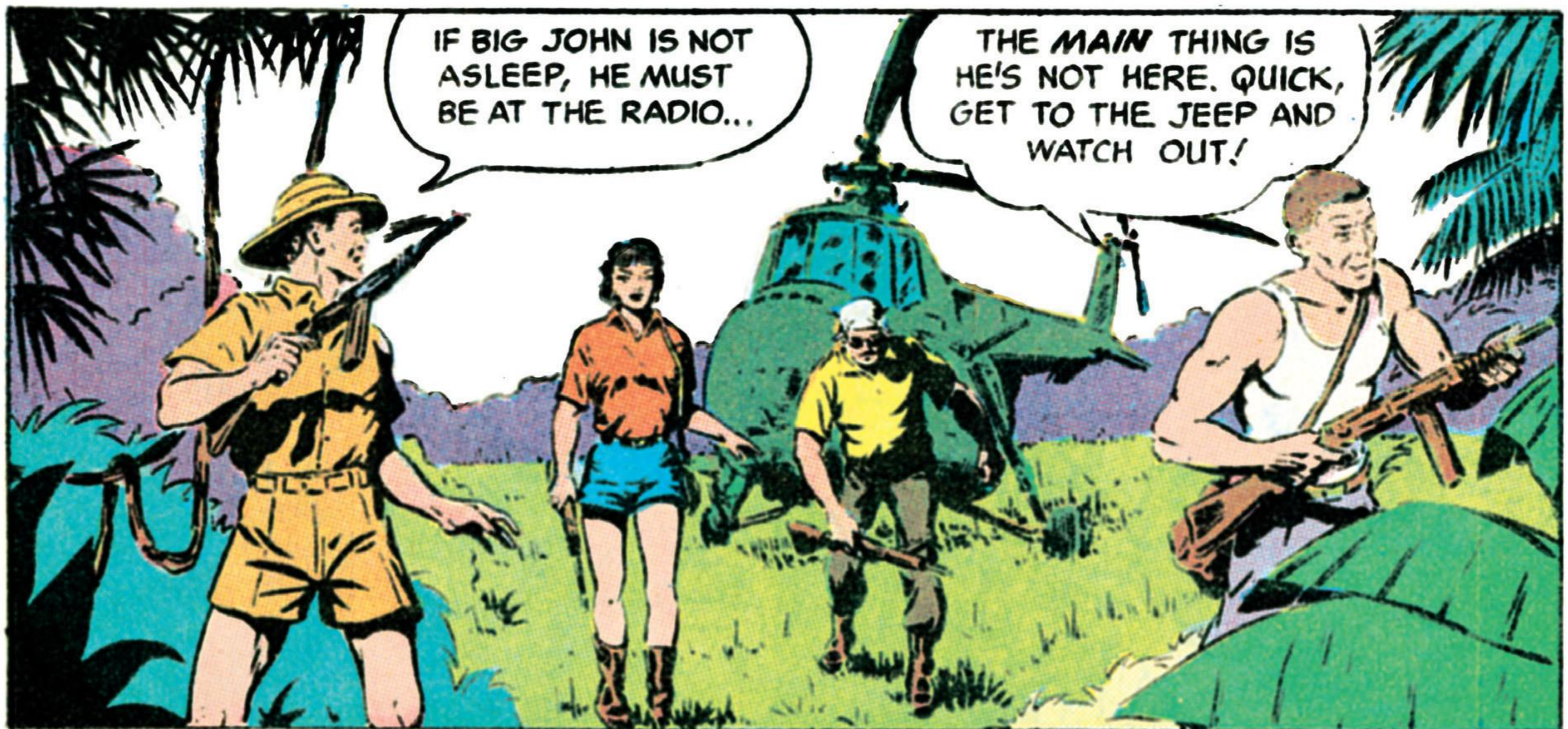


WATCH OUT FOR BIG JOHN WHEN WE LAND! HE SHOTS FIRST AND TALKS AFTERWARDS!

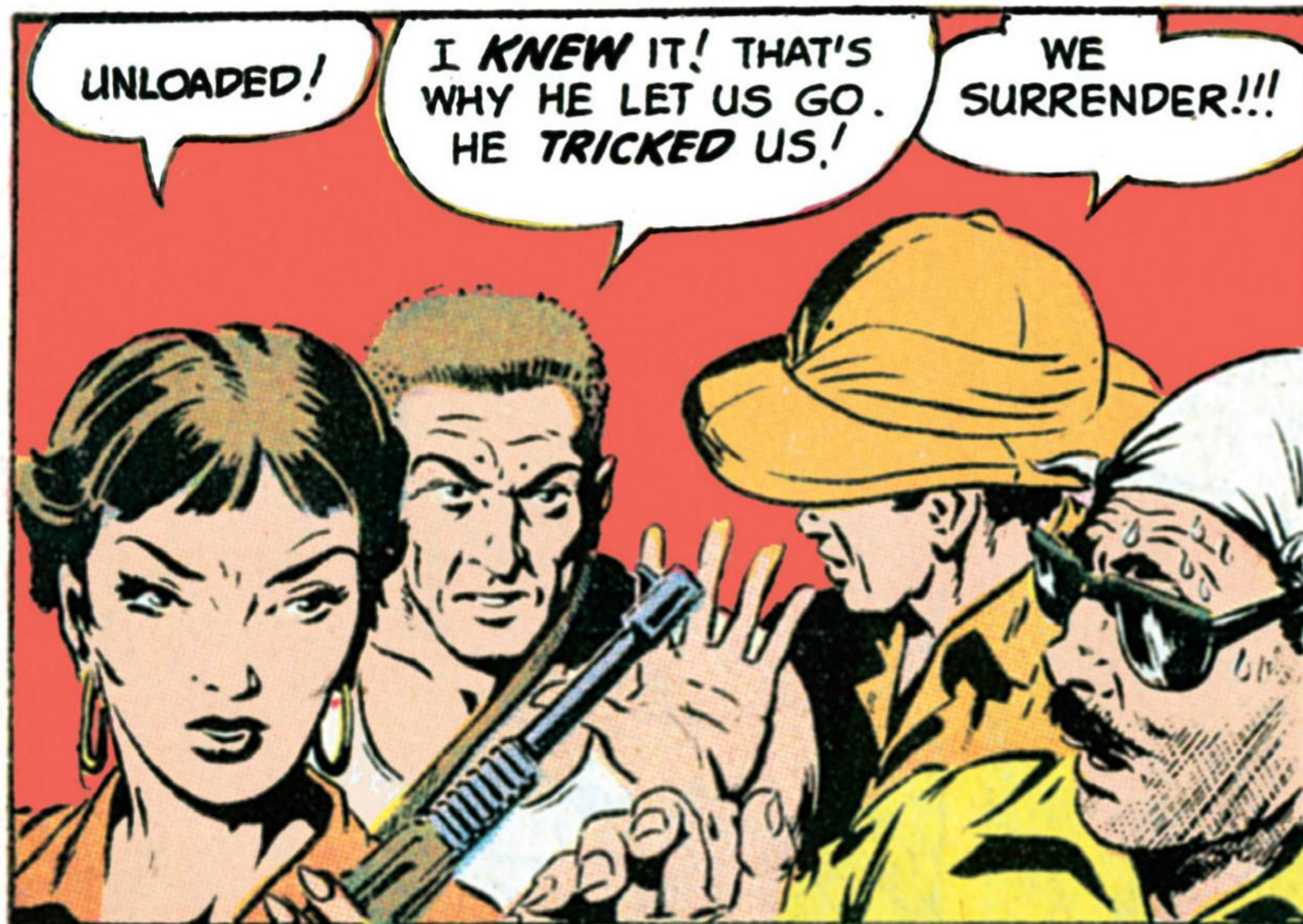
YOU WERE GREAT, EILEEN! WE'LL HAVE ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD!

WE'LL HAVE TO GO A **LONG** WAY FROM HERE! THE PHANTOM NEVER FORGETS!











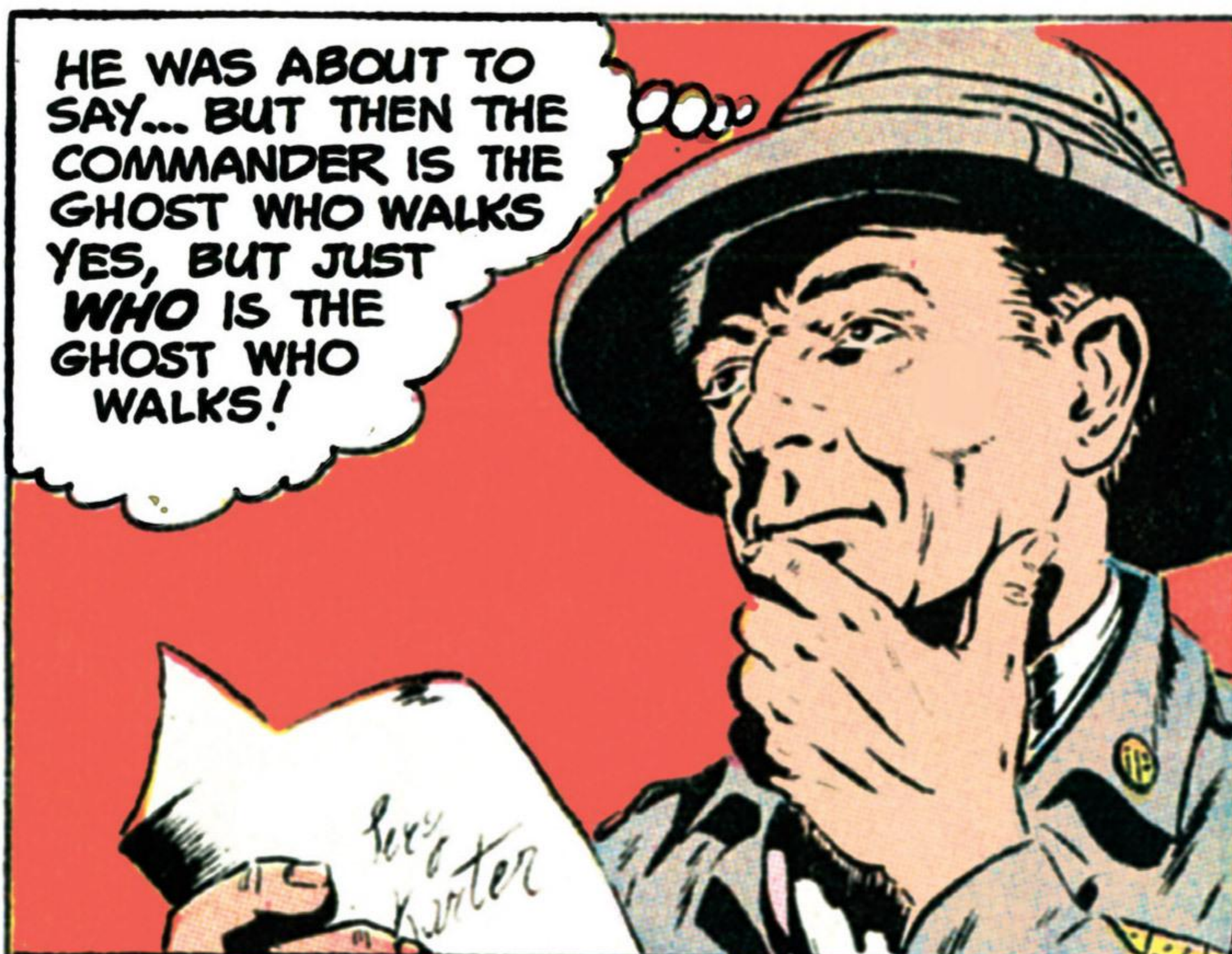


SERGEANT! NOW WHAT!?



OH, I MUST BE DREAMING. HE LOOKS LIKE **STOUT**, WANTED BY THE POLICE IN TEN...

GHOST WHO WALKS ...NO... I SAY: MESSAGE FOR YOU.



HE WAS ABOUT TO SAY... BUT THEN THE COMMANDER IS THE GHOST WHO WALKS YES, BUT JUST **WHO** IS THE GHOST WHO WALKS!

Very quiet



that  
be sufficient  
be sentenced  
all to jail!  
diamond belong  
natives must be  
back.  
The Commander



THE PHANTOM AND DIANA FIND DEVIL WAITING PATIENTLY FOR THEM...

OH, I'M SO HAPPY

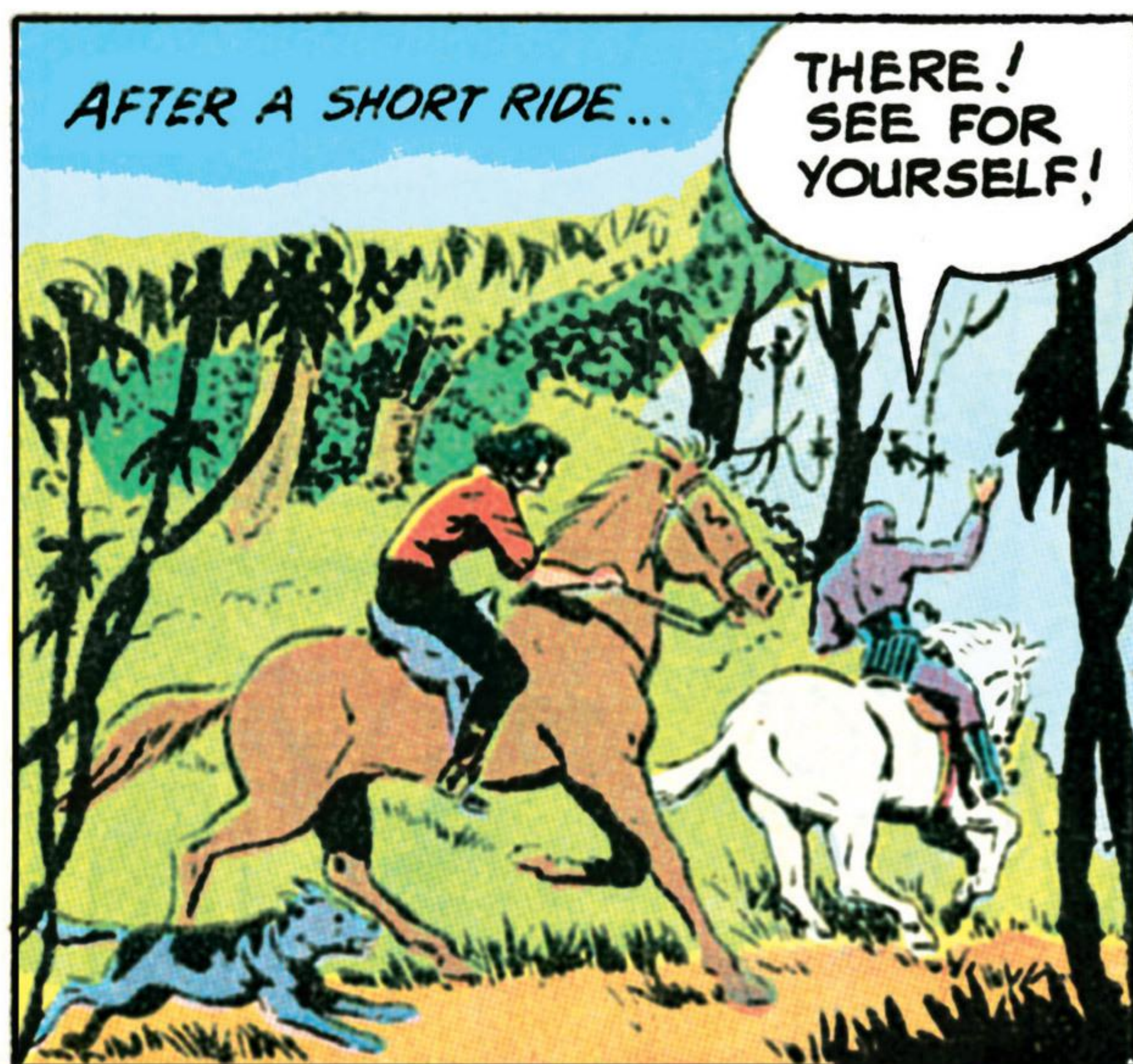
NOTHING BROKEN MY FRIEND, YOU'RE A HARD NUT TO CRACK, TOO, AREN'T YOU!





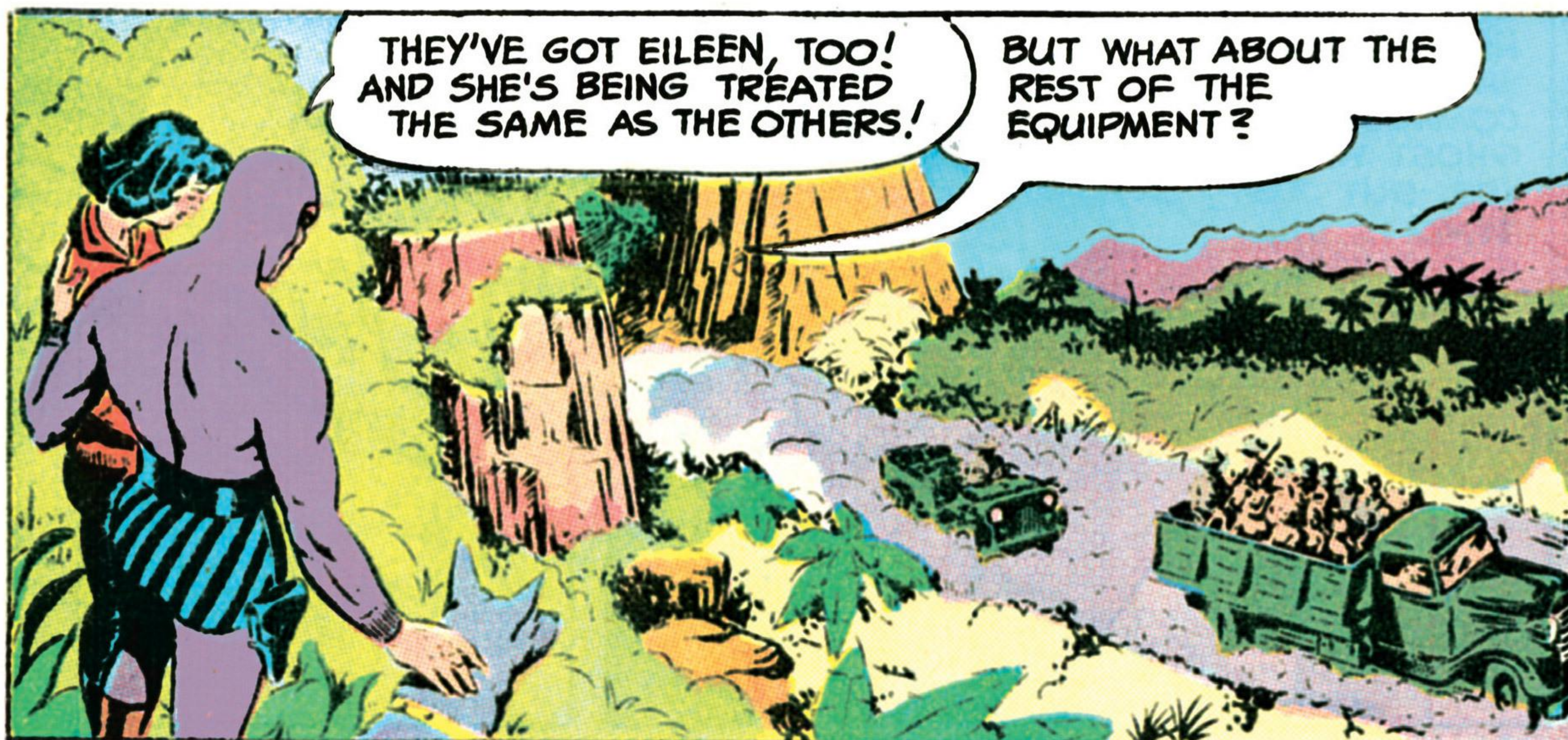
...HOW CAN YOU  
BE SURE THAT  
FOUR MEN CAN  
HOLD ALL OF  
THEM?

THEY'RE JUNGLE  
PATROL, DIANA...  
COME ON, I'LL  
**SHOW YOU!**



AFTER A SHORT RIDE...

THERE!  
SEE FOR  
YOURSELF!



THEY'VE GOT EILEEN, TOO!  
AND SHE'S BEING TREATED  
THE SAME AS THE OTHERS!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE  
REST OF THE  
EQUIPMENT?



THEY'LL COME BACK FOR  
IT **LATER**. AND ARE YOU  
CONVINCED NOW I  
WASN'T TAKEN IN BY  
EILEEN'S BIG BROWN  
EYES?

YES, BUT... THERE'S  
A PLANE IN NEXT  
WEEK... I **COULD**  
DELAY MY  
HOMECOMING!

DON'T  
MISS  
THE  
NEXT  
**PHANTOM**  
ADVENTURE!  
ON SALE

**NEXT  
MONTH!**





Above: original Jim Aparo artwork for Charlton's *The Phantom* #32, read the entire story in Hermes Press' *The Phantom: The Complete Series: The Charlton Years: Volume One*.



# THE PHANTOM

BOOM-BOOM BOOM

PHANTOM CALLS...

WATCH FOR TROUBLE...

TWO MEN...

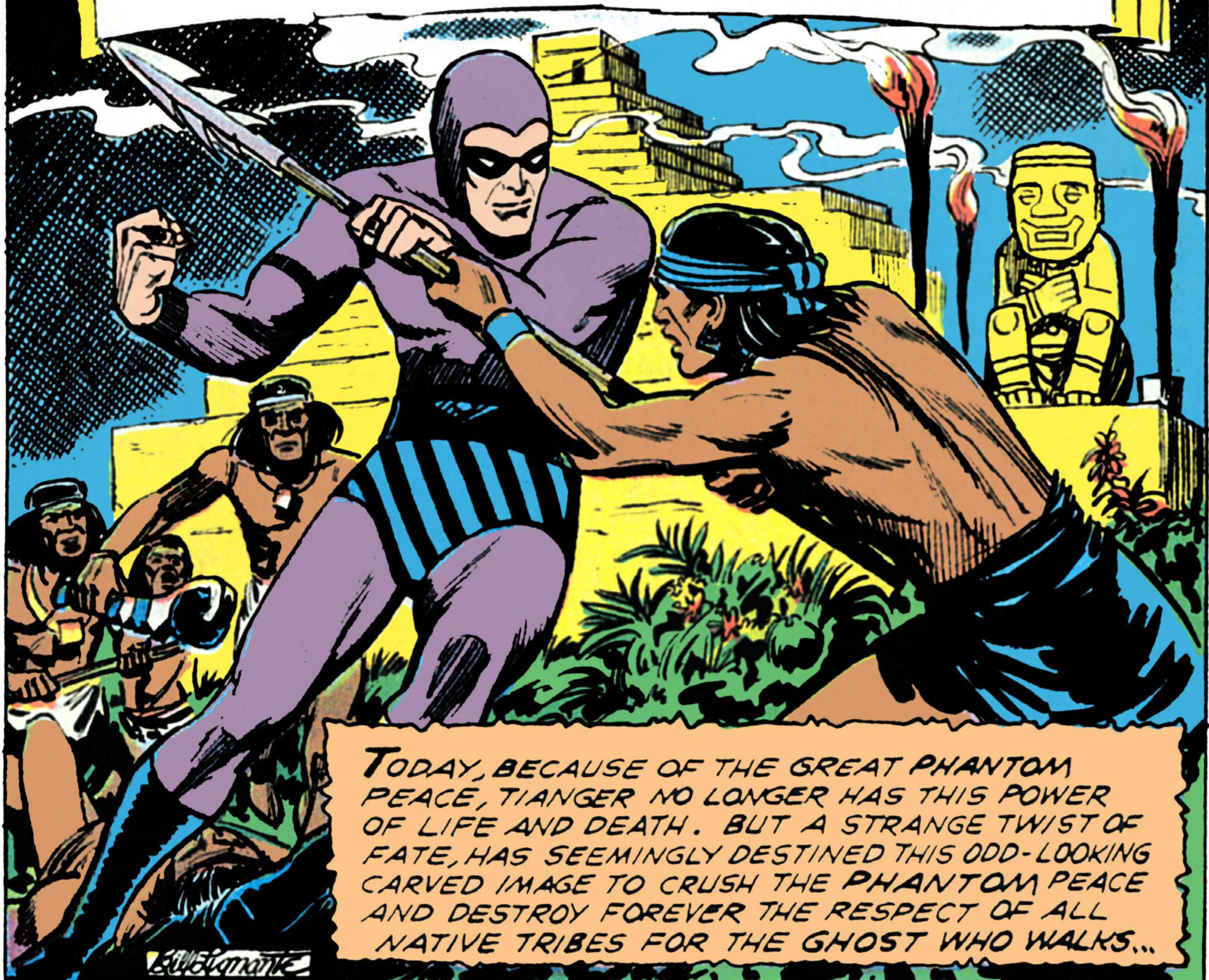
BOOM



The PHANTOM

# THE LOST CITY OF YIANGO

**F**OUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO, WITH THE COMING OF THE FIRST PHANTOM, MOST OLD TRIBAL BELIEFS AND SUPERSTITIONS VANISHED FOREVER FROM THE BENGALI JUNGLE. BUT MANY TRIBES KEPT CERTAIN OLD TRADITIONS ALIVE. SOME HAVE SURVIVED TO THIS DAY. ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL IS THE ANCIENT VALUGA GOD TIANGER, A FIGURE WHICH, AT ONE TIME, HELD THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH OVER THESE WARLIKE PEOPLE.



TODAY, BECAUSE OF THE GREAT PHANTOM PEACE, TIANGER NO LONGER HAS THIS POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH. BUT A STRANGE TWIST OF FATE, HAS SEEMINGLY DESTINED THIS ODD-LOOKING CARVED IMAGE TO CRUSH THE PHANTOM PEACE AND DESTROY FOREVER THE RESPECT OF ALL NATIVE TRIBES FOR THE GHOST WHO WALKS...



ONCE EVERY FIFTY YEARS A SOLEMN PROCESSION OF THE VALUGA LEADERS THREADS THROUGH THE JUNGLE AND INTO THE DEEP FORBIDDEN WOODS...

LET THEM PASS. THE PHANTOM HAS WILLED IT! ...FOR THIS IS THE DAY OF GREAT CEREMONY. IT BEGINS THE DAY OF TIANGER!



... THEIR PATH LEADS TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE SKULL CAVE.

IT IS TIME, O PHANTOM! FIFTY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE OUR PEOPLE STOOD ON THIS SPOT!

I REMEMBER WELL, WOMBASSO! COME WITH ME!



THE VALUGA ARE GREATLY IN YOUR DEBT, O GHOST WHO WALKS! FOR GUARDING THE SACRED IDOL THESE FIFTY YEARS!

IT HAS BEEN HERE WITH MY OWN TREASURES, WOMBASSO!



OUR GREAT CEREMONY BEGINS TONIGHT. WHEN THE MOON IS HIGH.

I'LL BE THERE, WOMBASSO!





**THAT EVENING, AT THE VALUGA VILLAGE...**

PHANTOM COMES! LET THE CEREMONY BEGIN!

A PROUD MOMENT! EACH FIFTY YEARS, THEIR STRENGTH IS REVITALIZED BY THIS CEREMONY!



**TIANGER!... FIRST LEADER OF THE VALUGA! A MAN OF COURAGE AND STRENGTH, WHOSE SPIRIT IS THE LIFE BLOOD OF HIS TRIBE!**



**SUDDENLY, THE CEREMONY HALTS ABRUPTLY...**

YIIIEE!

JORAN! WHAT GRIEVES YOU?



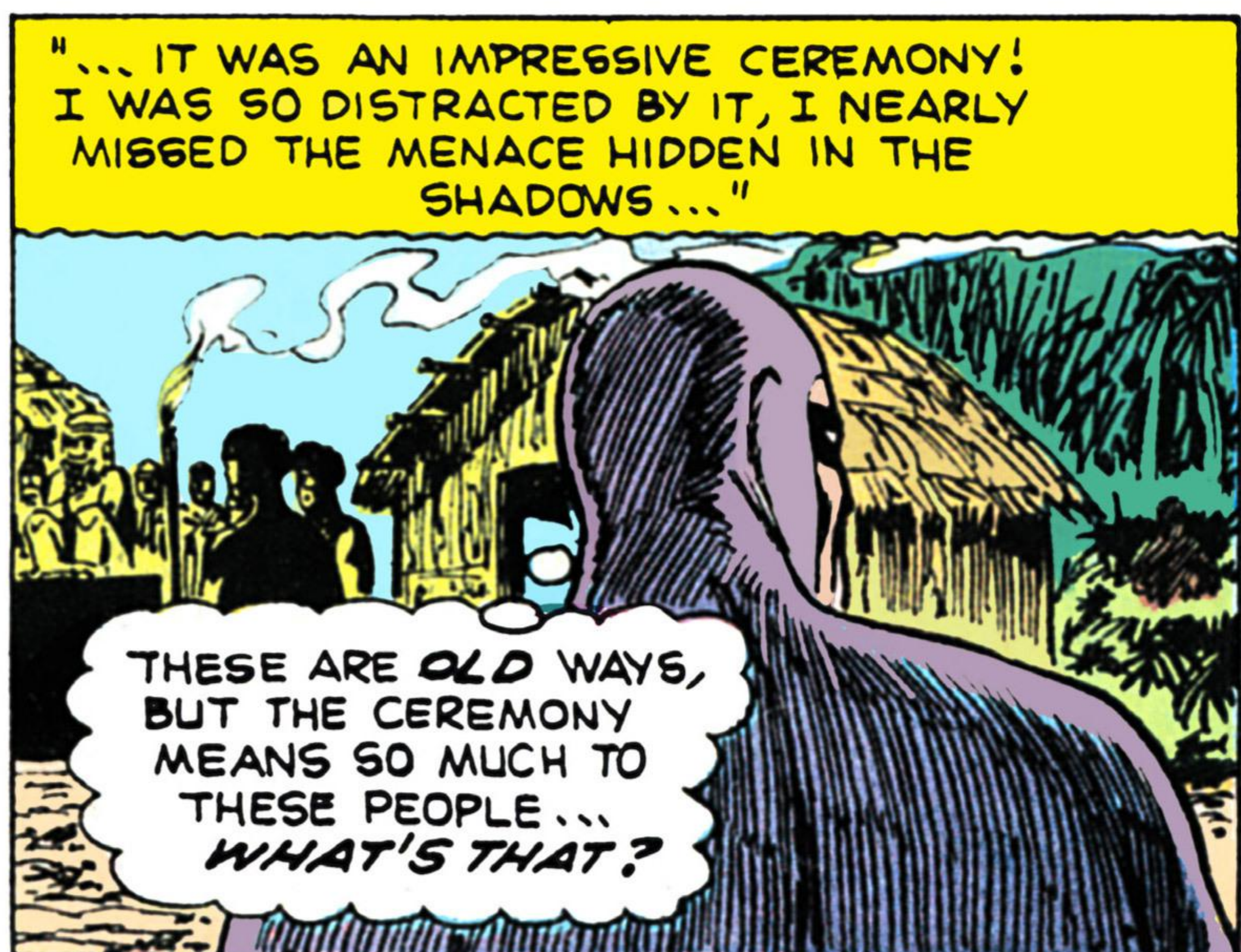
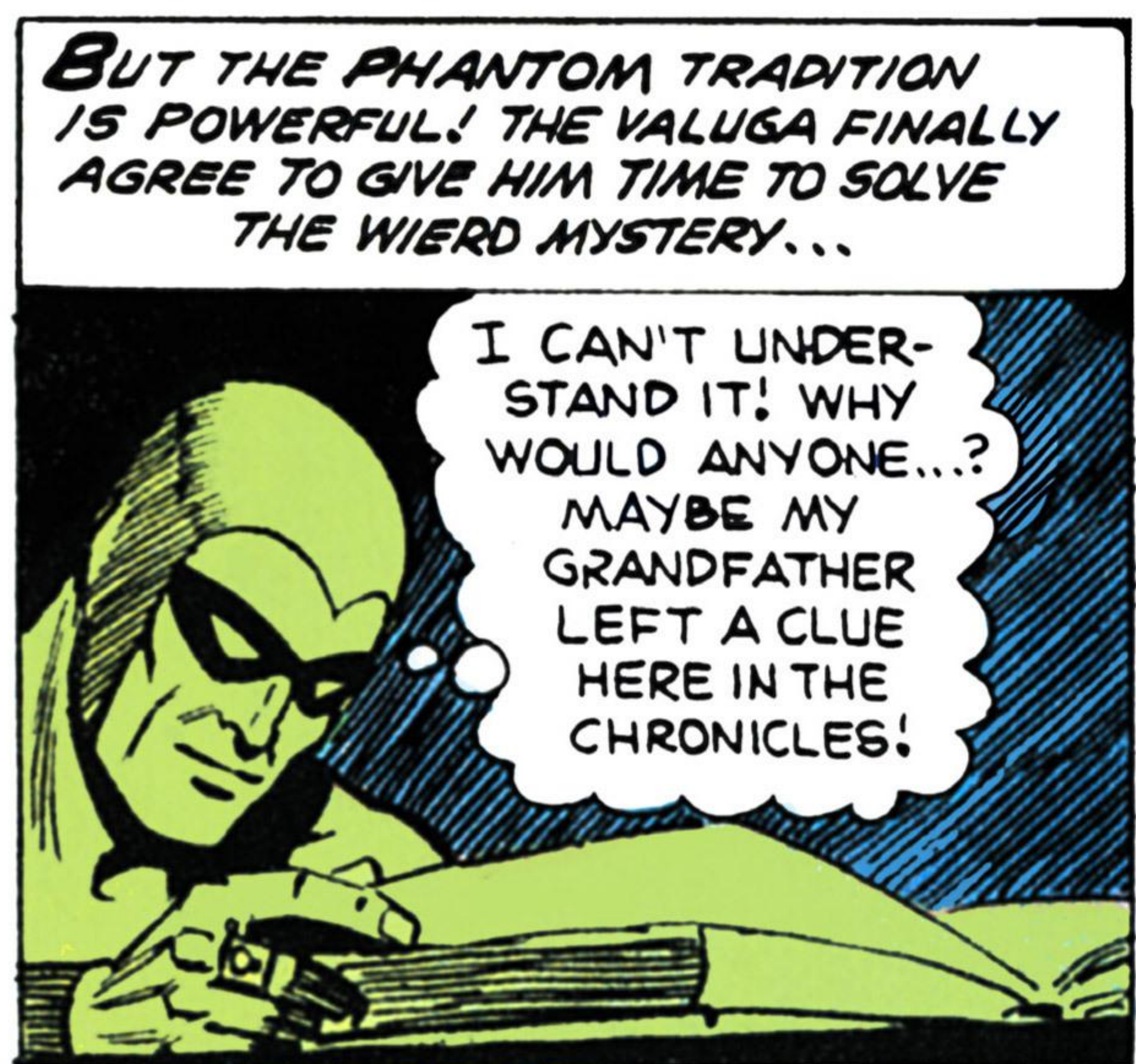
THIS IS NOT THE TRUE TOKEN OF TIANGER! THE **REAL** IDOL CONTAINED A SECRET SCROLL. THERE IS NONE HERE!



THE **PHANTOM** HAS GIVEN US A **FALSE** SYMBOL!

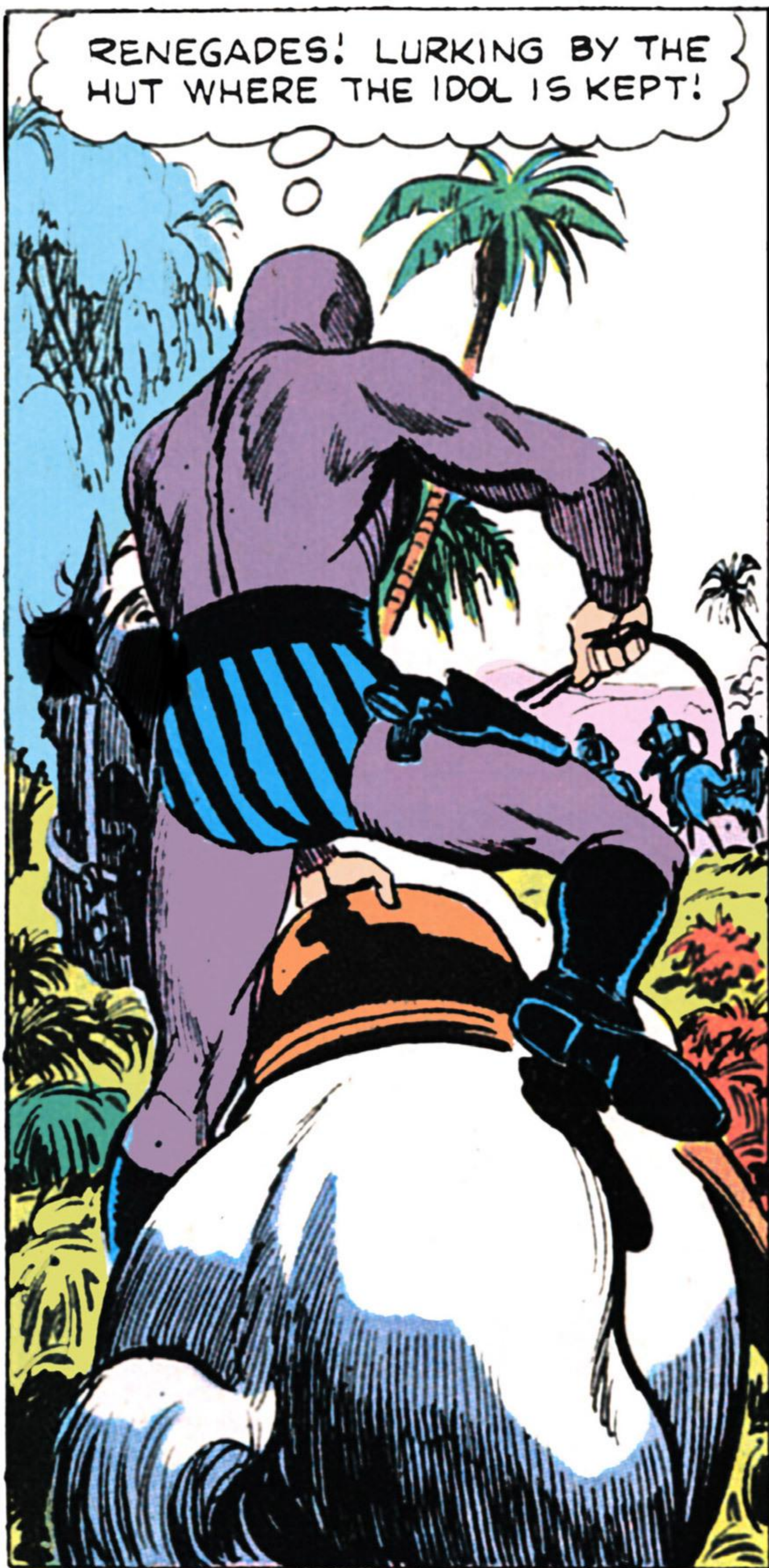








RENEGADES! LURKING BY THE HUT WHERE THE IDOL IS KEPT!



"I MANAGED TO STOP TWO OF THEM..."

THESE TWO ARE FROM THE *YIANGO* TRIBE...THE CUT-THROATS WHO STILL, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, DON'T KNOW THE *PHANTOM* PEACE!



"I HAD THEM WELL UNDER CONTROL..."



"WHEN SUDDENLY, ONE OF THEIR WHEELING HORSES STRUCK ME A TERRIBLE BLOW..."

OOF!

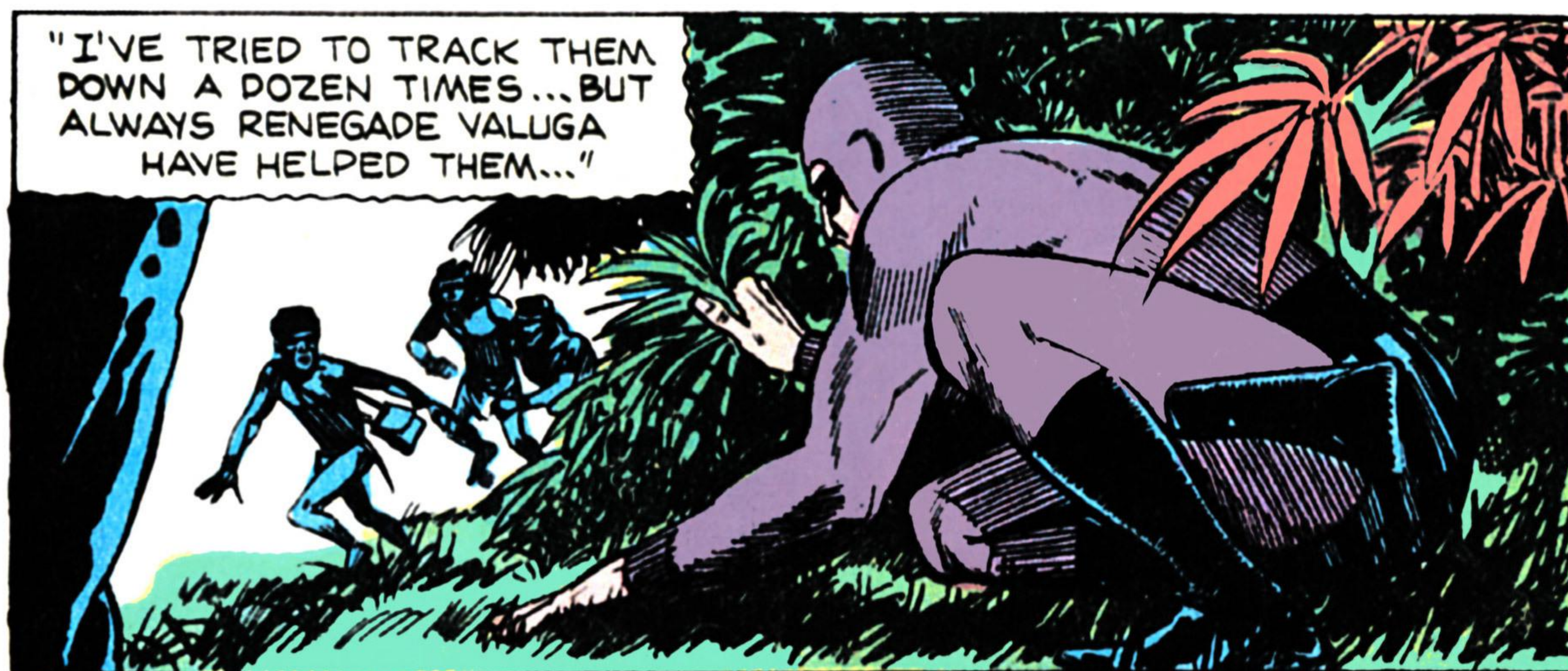
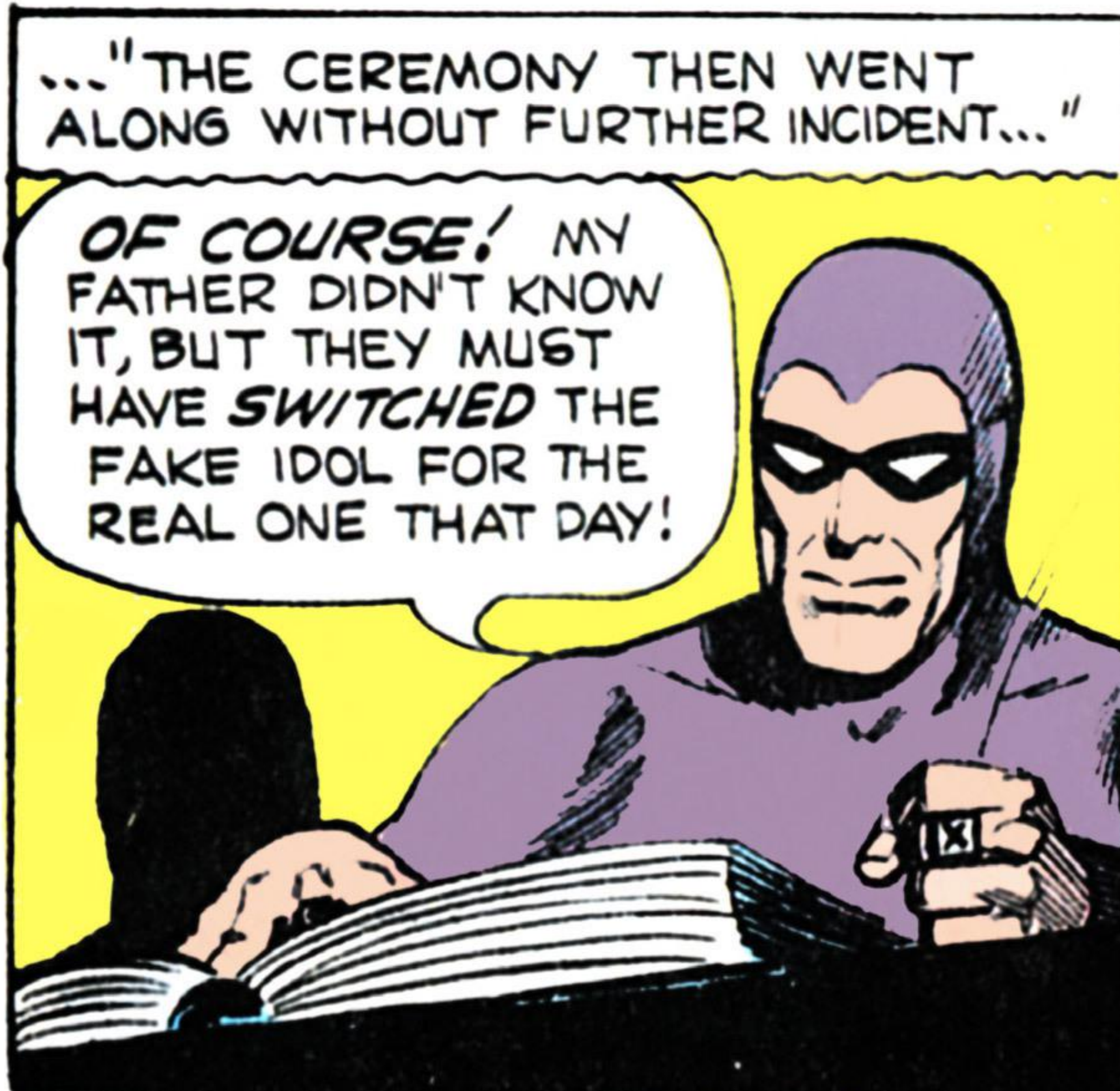


"AND WHEN I REGAINED MY SENSES..."

(WH-WHEW!)...THEY'RE GONE... BUT I GUESS NO HARM WAS DONE!...THE IDOL IS STILL IN THE *ELDER'S* HANDS!





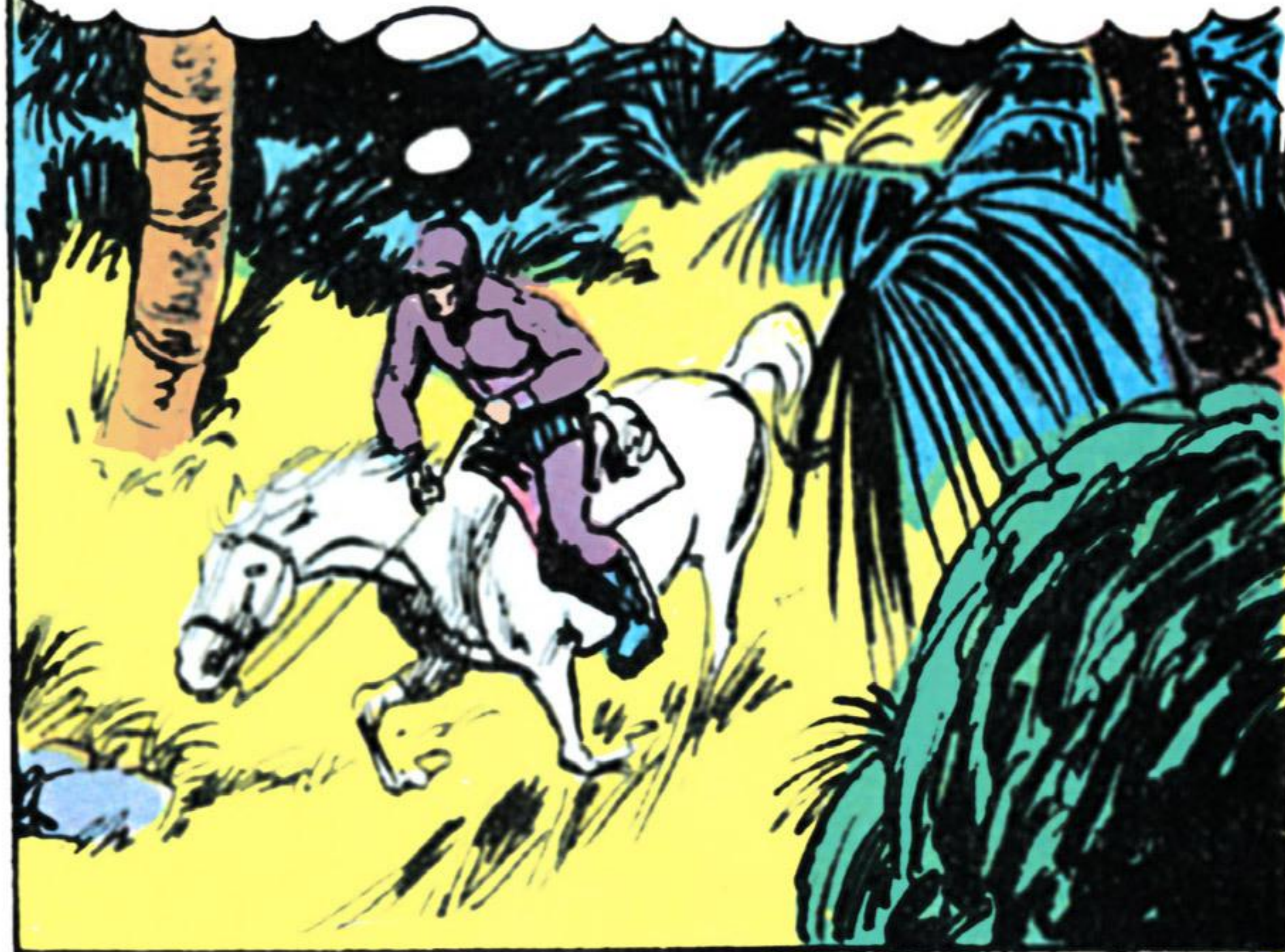




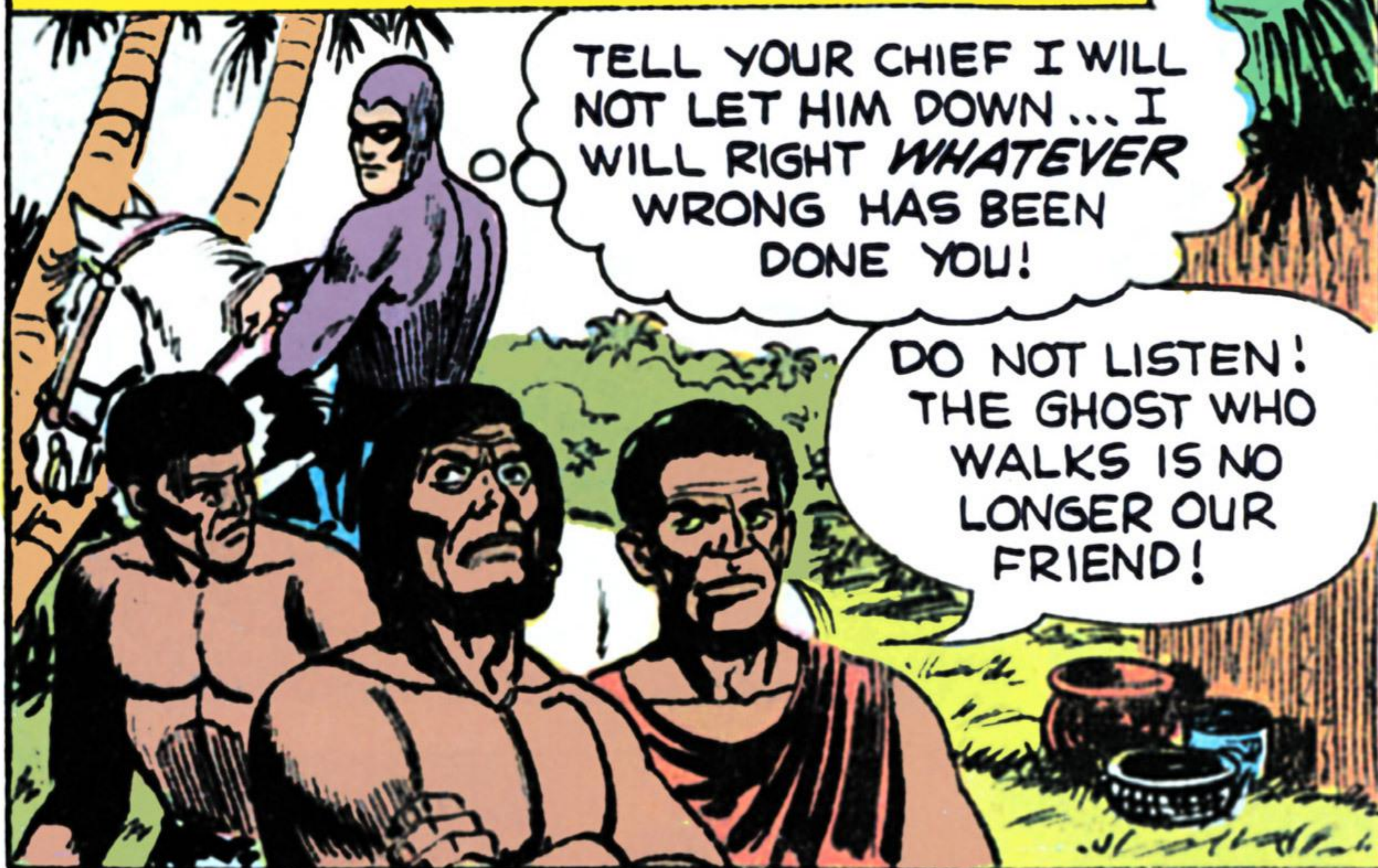
THE STOLEN IDOL MUST BE THE SECRET OF THEIR POWER OVER THE VALUGA! THEY'VE USED IT TO TURN THEM INTO *RENEGADES*!



THERE'S ONLY *ONE* SOLUTION ... HEAD INTO THE MOUNTAINS! WHEN I FIND THE LOST CITY OF YIANGO, I THINK I'LL ALSO FIND *TIANGER*!



AS THE PHANTOM SETS OUT ON HIS DANGEROUS MISSION, ONCE-FRIENDLY EYES WATCH WITH SUSPICION...



TELL YOUR CHIEF I WILL NOT LET HIM DOWN ... I WILL RIGHT *WHATEVER* WRONG HAS BEEN DONE YOU!

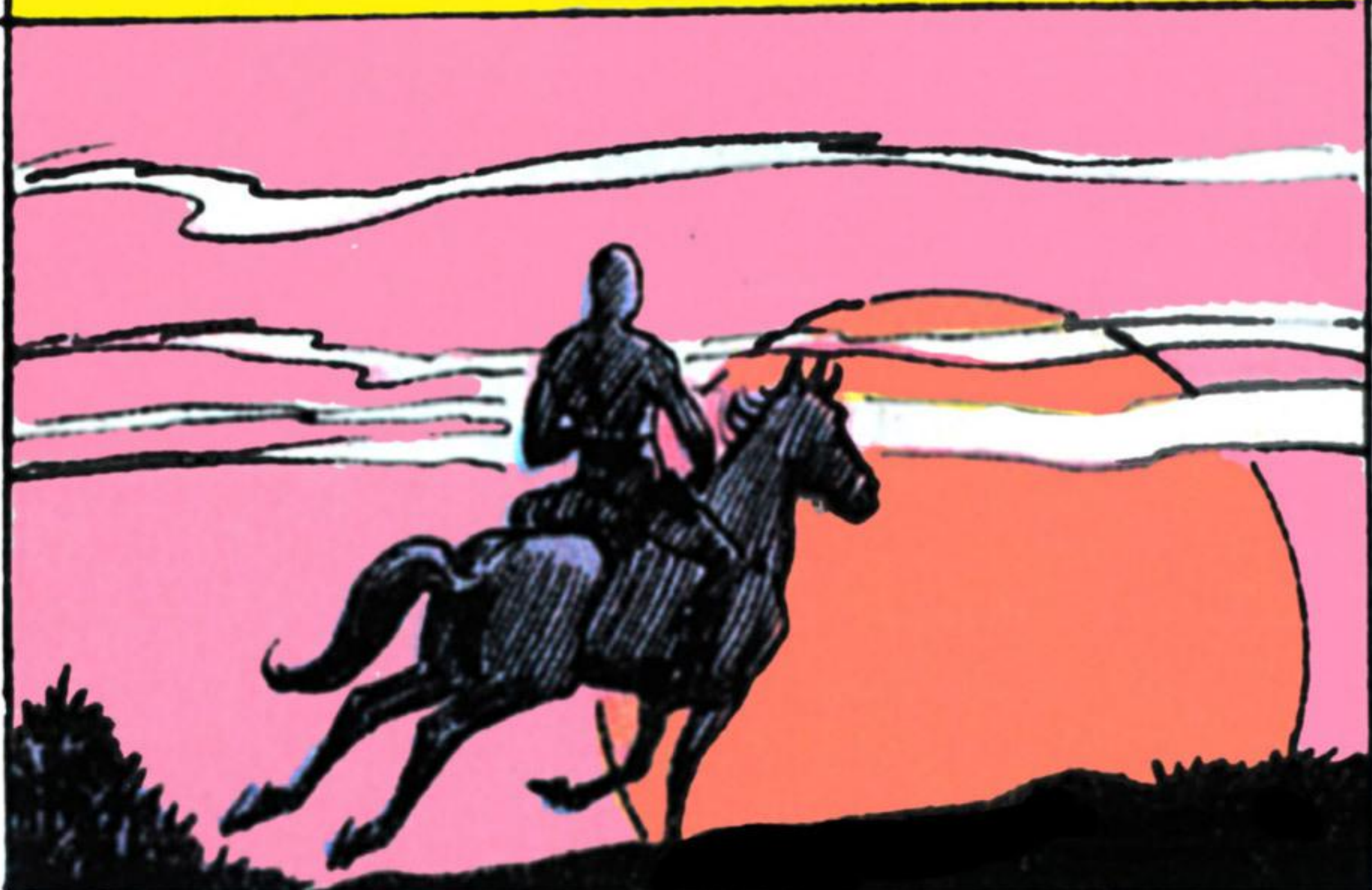
DO NOT LISTEN! THE GHOST WHO WALKS IS NO LONGER OUR FRIEND!

THEY'VE LOST FAITH IN ME ... IF I DON'T FIND THAT IDOL IT COULD MEAN THE END OF THE *PHANTOM* PEACE!



I—I *MUST* SUCCEED!

FOR TWO DAYS, THE PHANTOM RIDES IN SEARCH OF THE SECRET CITY...



FOR TWO NIGHTS, HE IS FREED TO MAKE CAMP IN STRANGE, HOSTILE COUNTRY...





**THEN, ON THE THIRD NIGHT...**

THE GHOST WHO WALKS...  
IF WE COULD CAPTURE HIM  
ALIVE THE YIANGO WOULD  
HONOR US GREATLY!

YES... AND *WHAT* DO WE HAVE TO  
FEAR? THE YIANGO HAVE TIANGER—  
THE *TRUE* SYMBOL OF OUR TRIBAL  
POWER! COME!

YOU STAND GUARD!  
I'LL CAPTURE HIM!

STRIKE FAST...  
AND *HARD*!



**SUDDENLY...**

WHAT MANNER  
OF MEN HIT A  
SLEEPING  
MAN?

WHA...?  
*U-GGGH!*

THE VALUGA  
ARE A BRAVE  
PEOPLE! WHAT  
POWER OF EVIL  
HAS TURNED  
YOU TWO INTO  
*RENEGADE*  
JACKELS?





WE *ARE* THE POWERS OF THE VALUGA, PHANTOM! WE ARE DIRECTED BY THE SACRED SYMBOL OF TIANGER! *WE* DO NOT FEAR YOU LIKE THE *OTHERS*!

HONEST MEN HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE *PHANTOM*! YOU HAVE BEEN TRICKED!

BUT THOSE WHO THREATEN THE WELFARE OF OTHERS HAVE *GOOD* CAUSE TO FEAR MY HAND! NOW... YOU WILL DO *EXACTLY* AS I SAY! YOU WILL LEAD ME TO THE *SECRET YIANGO CITY*!

FOR A FULL DAY, THE RENEGADES LEAD THE PHANTOM WESTWARD, THEN...

TH-THERE... THROUGH THE CANYON... IN THE RUINS BEYOND...

L-LET US GO, PHANTOM... TH-THEY WILL KILL US FOR LEADING YOU HERE! NO MAN CAN STOP THEM!

SO THAT'S WHERE THEY HIDE OUT... I'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT THESE OLD RUINS! HMM... STRANGE... THERE DON'T SEEM TO BE ANY GUARDS...

SUDDENLY, A RUMBLE FROM ABOVE AND...

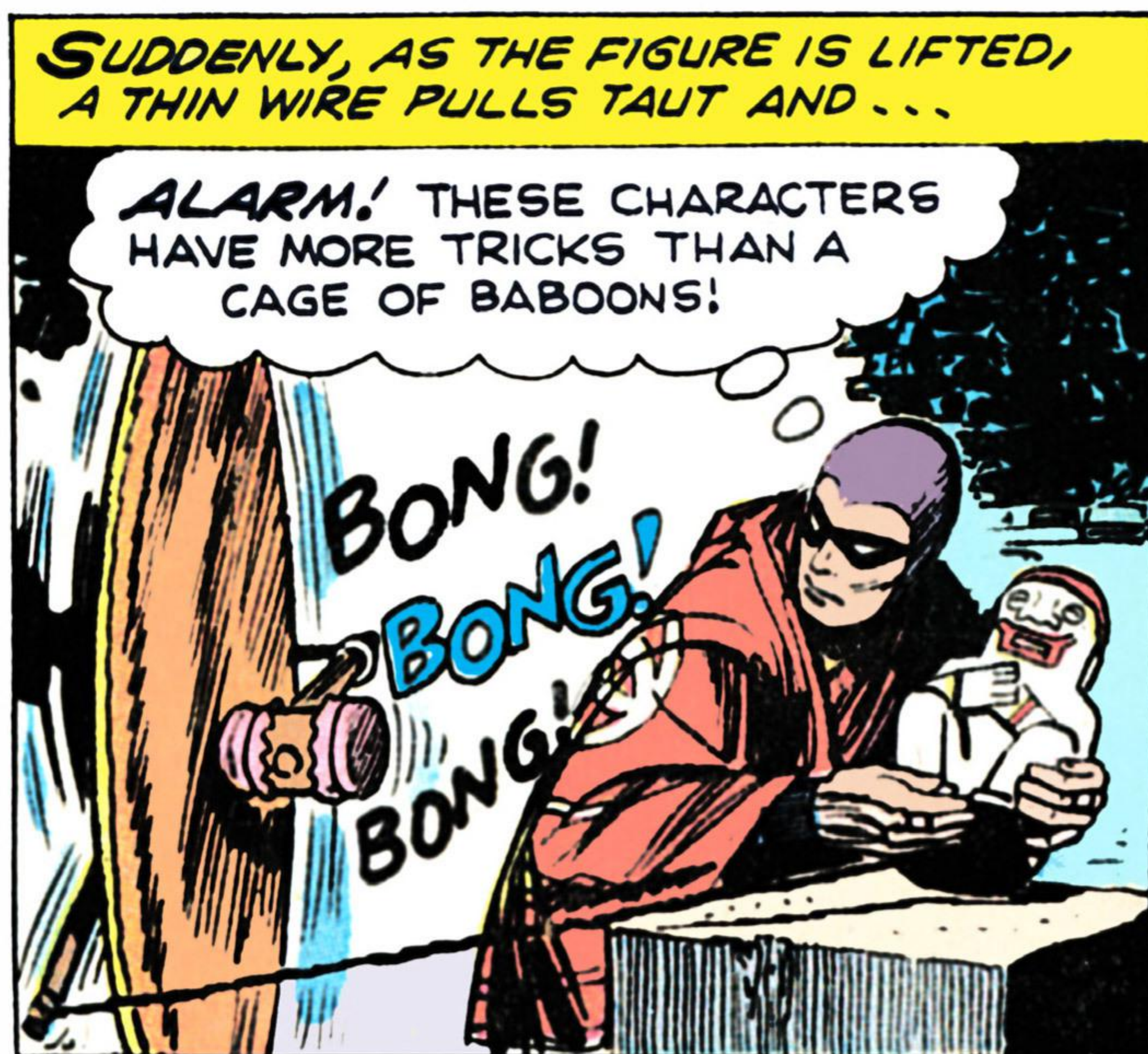
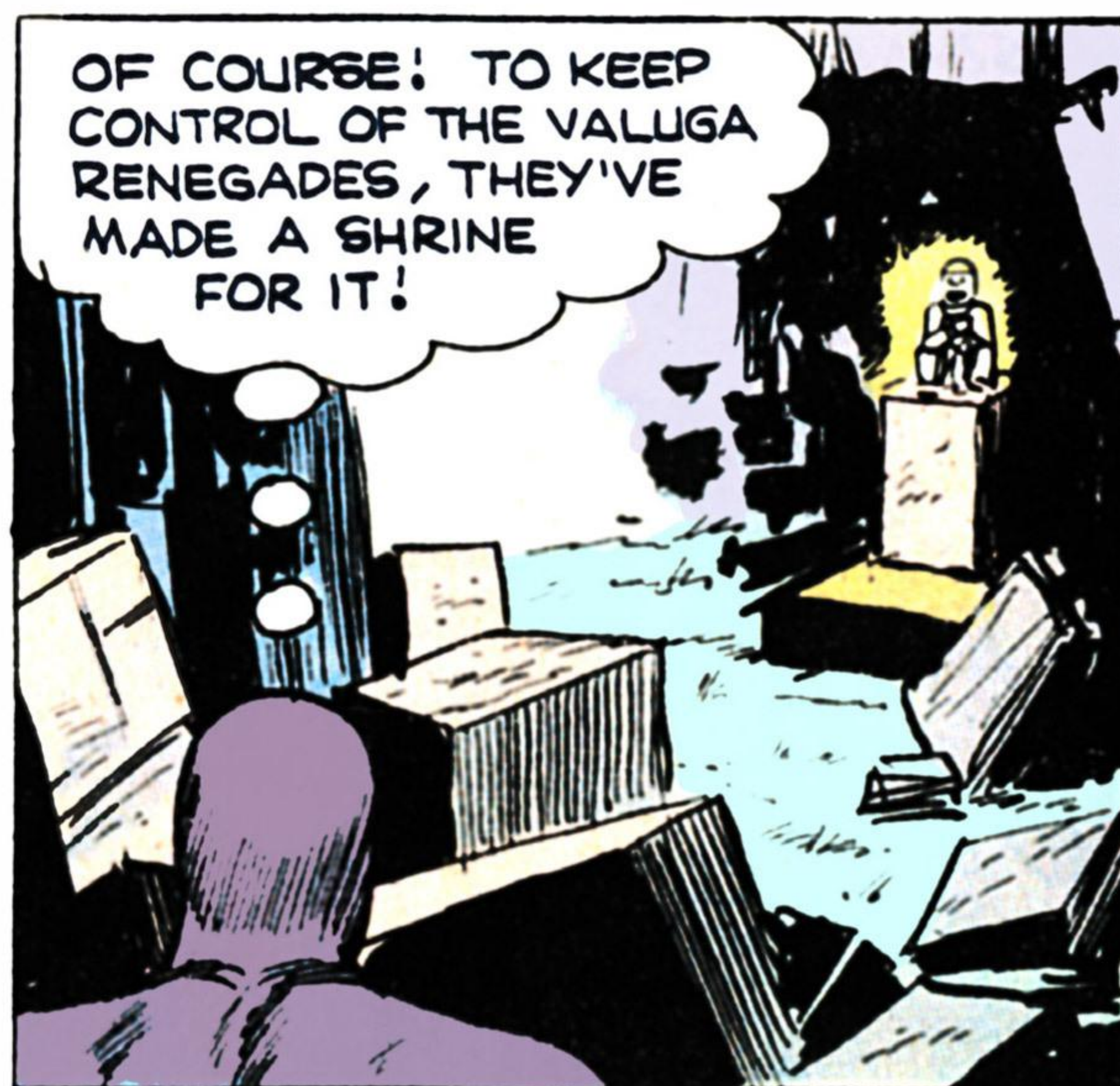
A TRAP!

RUMBLE!







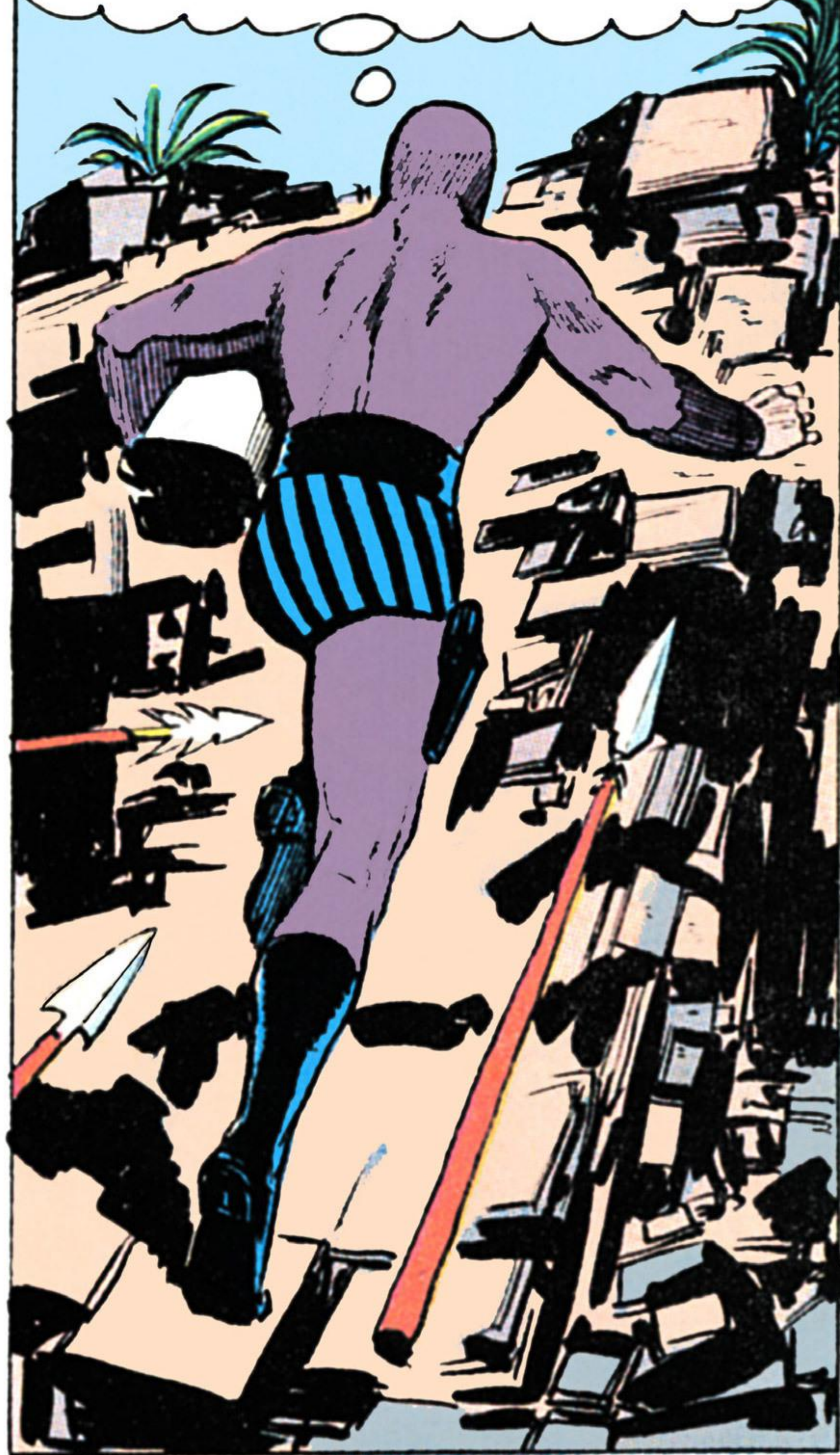




INSTANTLY, THE YIANGO CAMP  
SPRINGS TO LIFE...



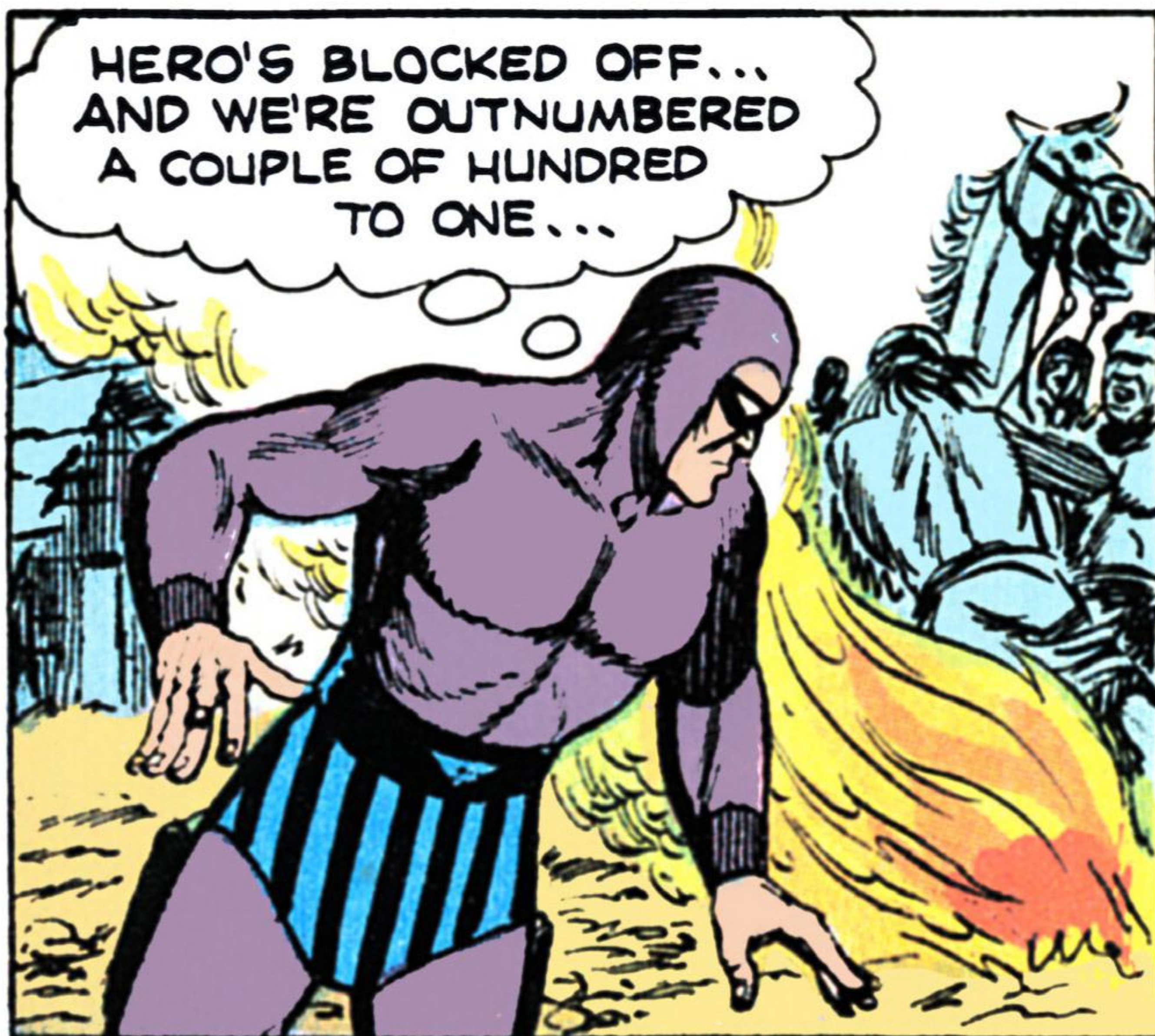
...IF I TRY CLIMBING THAT  
CANYON WALL AGAIN, I'LL  
MAKE A PERFECT TARGET...



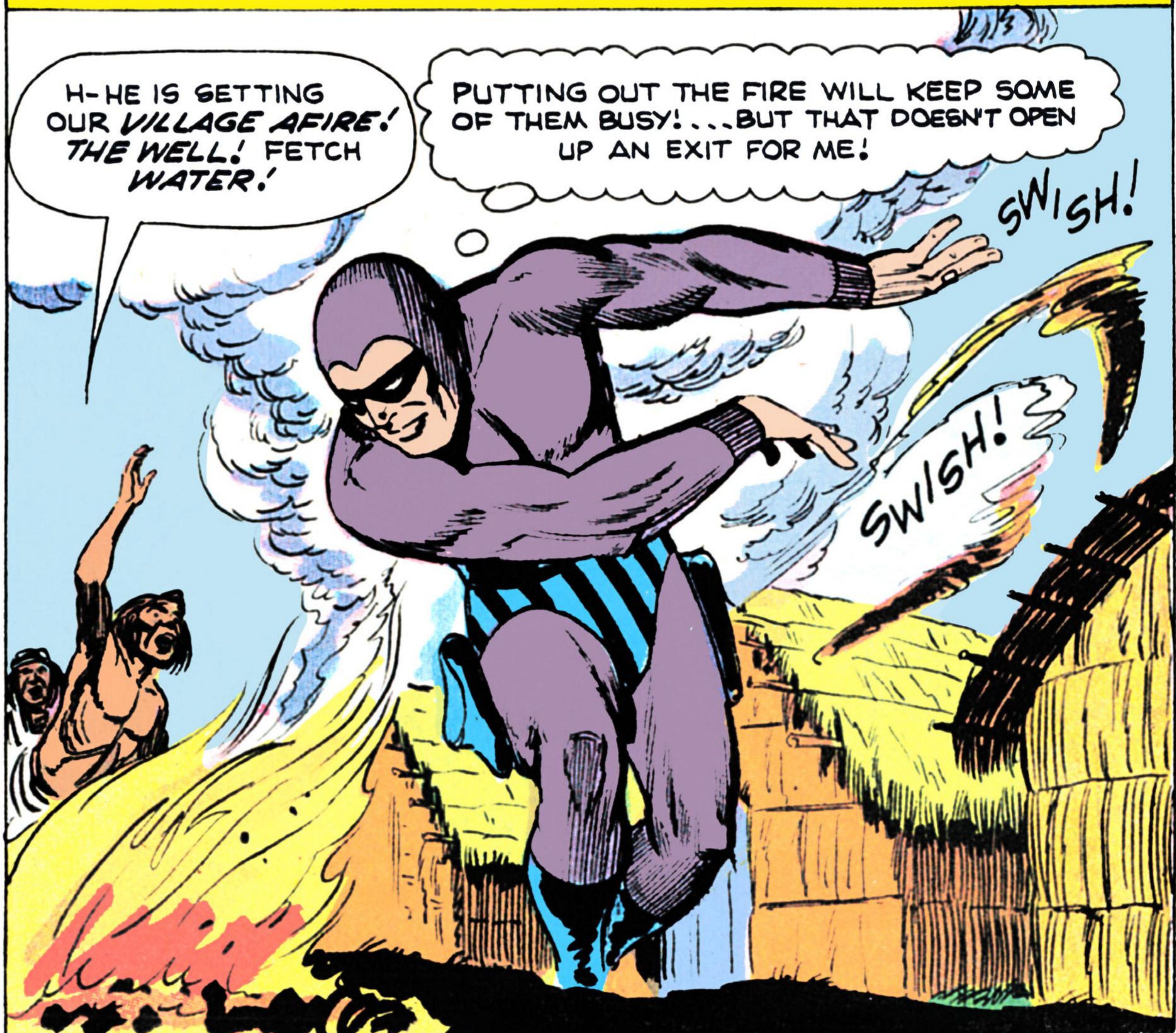
THEN, AS CAPTURE OR  
SUDDEN DEATH SEEMS  
CERTAIN...



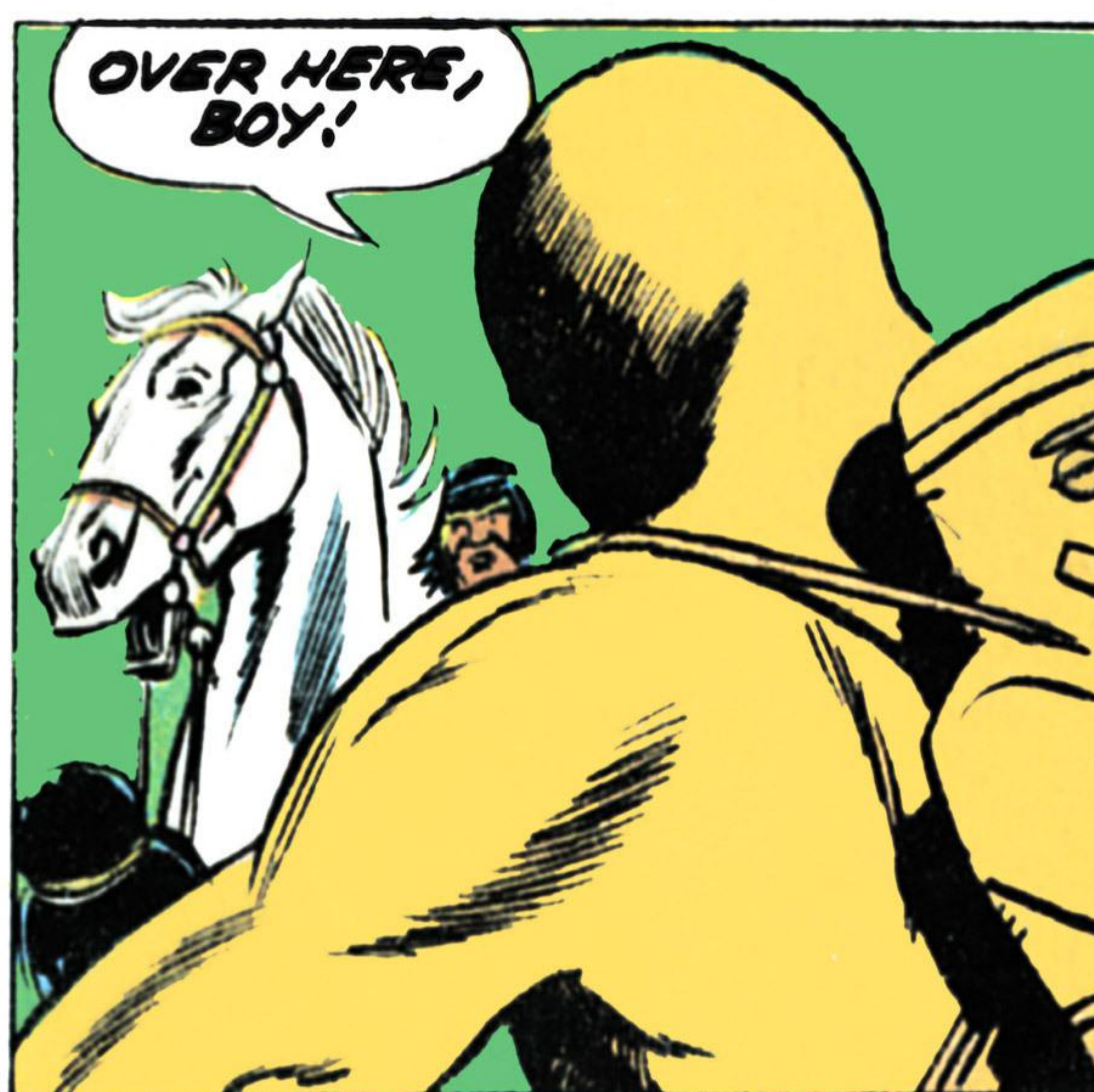




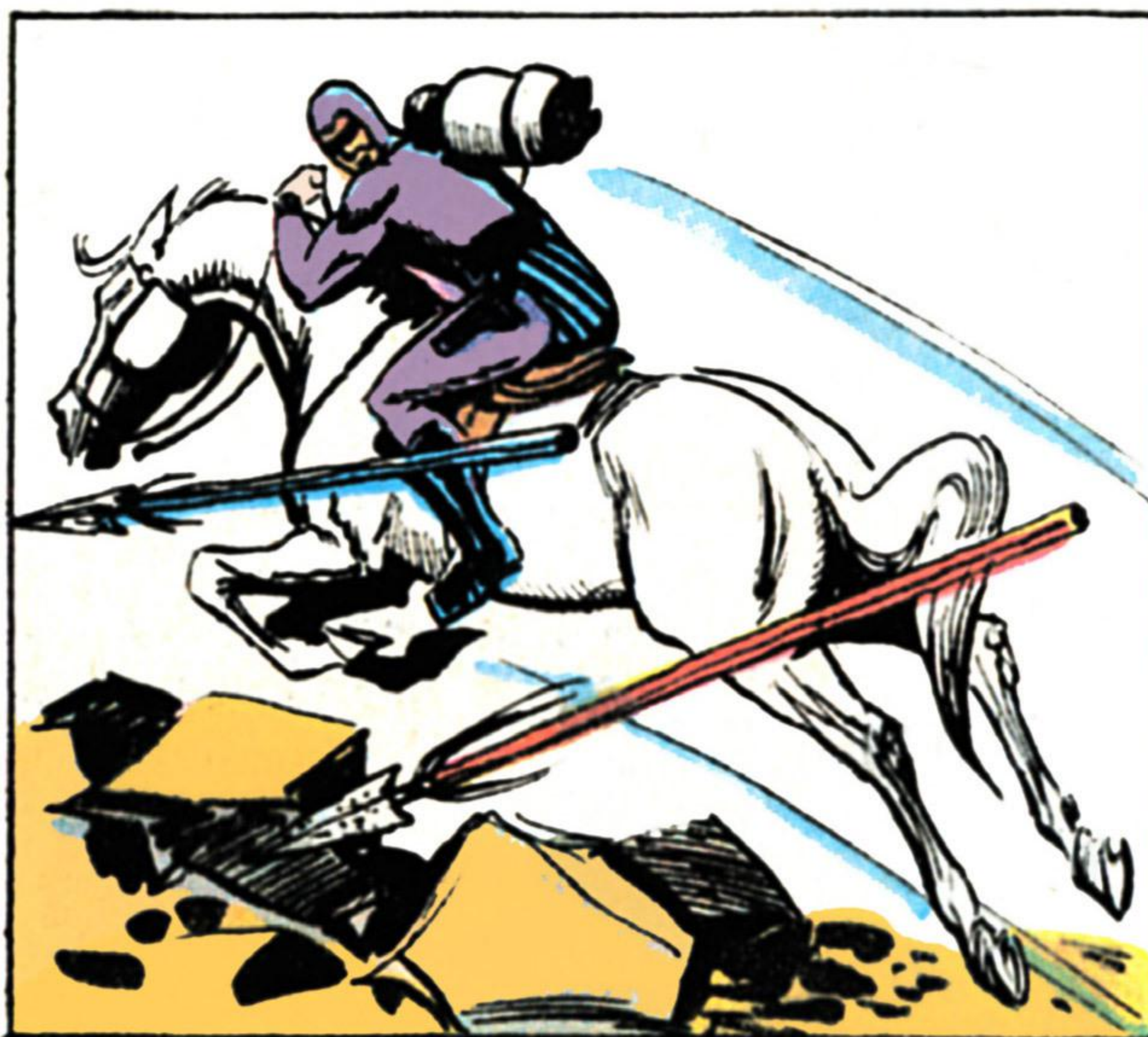
**WITH LIGHTNING-LIKE SPEED, THE PHANTOM PULLS BURNING EMBERS FROM THE FIRE AND HURLS THEM TOWARD THE TINDER-DRY HUTS...**













The  
PHANTOM

# THE PEARL RAIDERS

**MORE POWER! FASTER!** IF THAT  
GHOST WHO WALKS CHARACTER RETURNS  
THE BLACK PEARL TO BENGALI I'LL  
HAVE YOUR HEADS!

I HOPE THIS BOAT MAKES IT!  
UNLESS WE REACH THE CALCUTTA  
REEFS QUICKLY, WE'LL **BOTH** BE  
PAYING A SUDDEN VISIT TO  
OUR "HONORABLE ANCESTORS"!

BRATTA!  
BAM!

BRATTA!  
BAM!

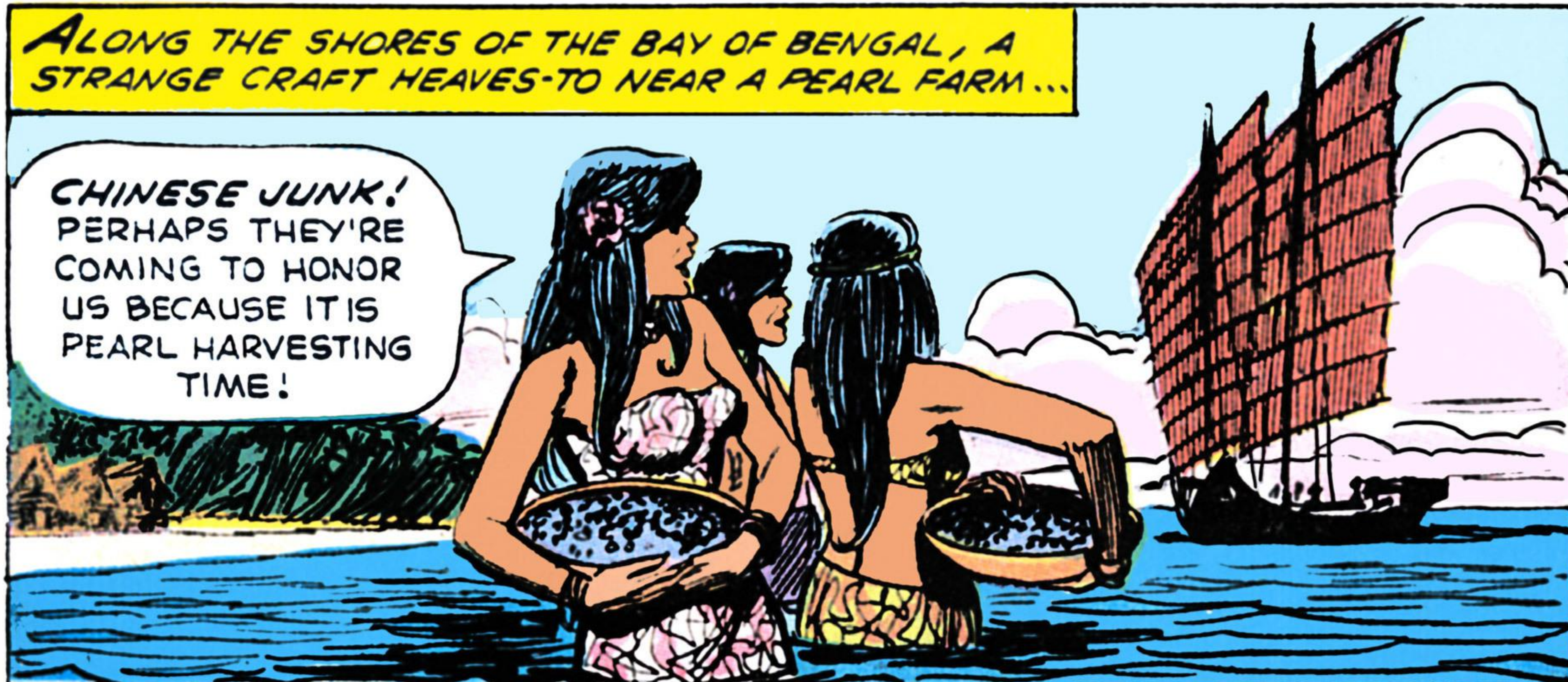
PITWEE!

**IT WAS THE MOST PRICELESS PEARL IN THE WORLD... AND THE PHANTOM HAD PUT HIS LIFE ON THE LINE RETURNING THE GLISTENING WONDER TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNERS. TO DO THE JOB HE MUST SOMEHOW OUT-SAIL THE FURY OF CAIRO RED... AND A FAST-MOVING POWER BOAT LEAVING SUDDEN DEATH IN ITS WAKE!**



ALONG THE SHORES OF THE BAY OF BENGAL, A STRANGE CRAFT HEAVES-TO NEAR A PEARL FARM...

CHINESE JUNK!  
PERHAPS THEY'RE  
COMING TO HONOR  
US BECAUSE IT IS  
PEARL HARVESTING  
TIME!



BUT THE VISITORS  
HAVE OTHER PLANS...

PEARL  
RAIDERS!  
RUN! RUN!

BAM!  
BAM!



WITHIN MINUTES, A FORTUNE IN  
FRESHLY-HARVESTED PEARLS ARE  
PILED ON THE JUNK'S DECK...

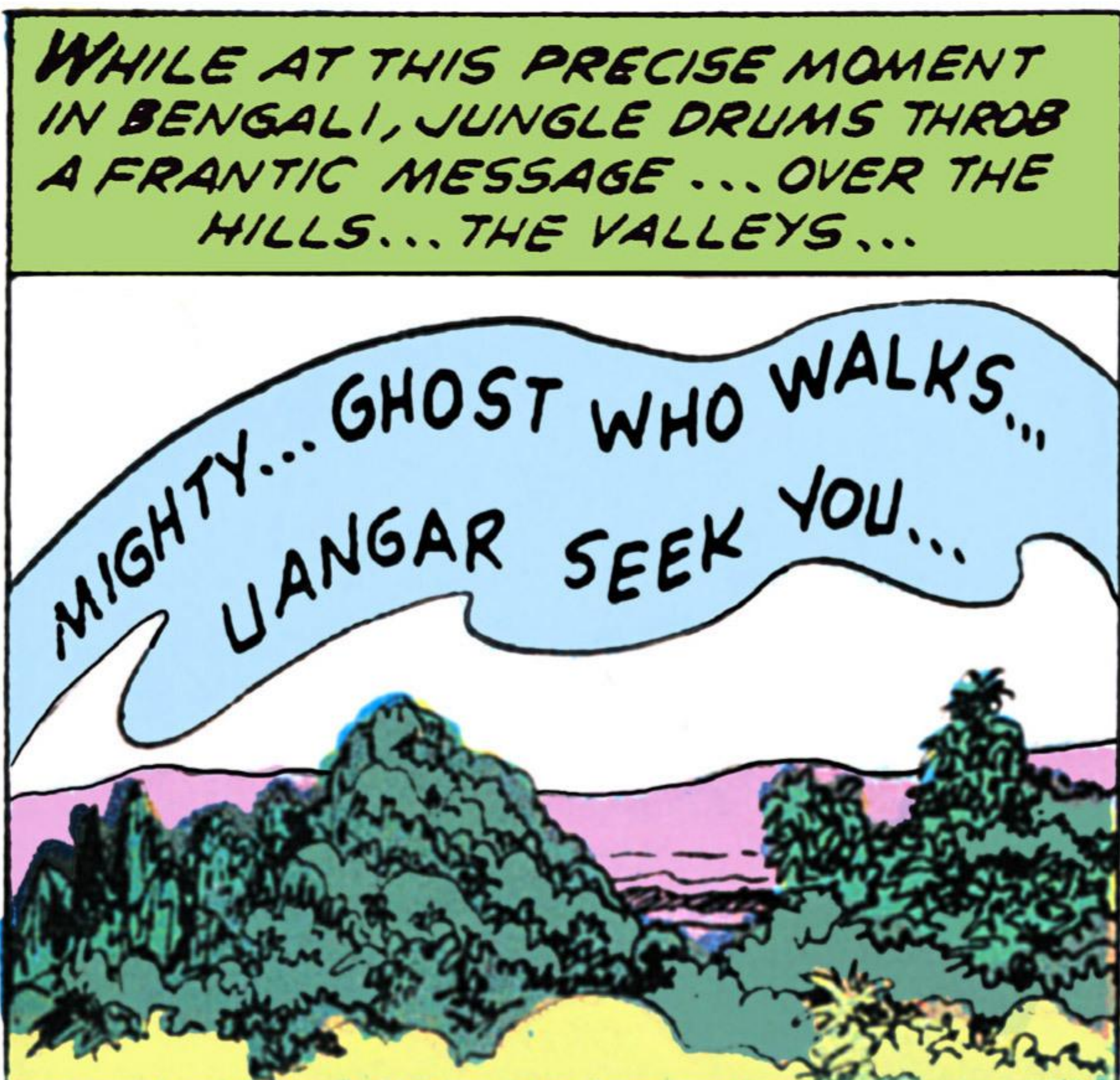
ANOTHER  
SUCCESSFUL RAID,  
CAIRO! THE RAID  
WENT OFF WITH-  
OUT A HITCH!

GOOD!  
RENDEZVOUS  
AT THE USUAL  
PLACE!



WHILE AT THIS PRECISE MOMENT  
IN BENGALI, JUNGLE DRUMS THROB  
A FRANTIC MESSAGE ... OVER THE  
HILLS... THE VALLEYS...

MIGHTY... GHOST WHO WALKS...  
UANGAR SEEK YOU...



... AND INTO THE DEEP WOODS...

...WE NEED HELP  
OF PHANTOM...  
COME AT ONCE...

STRANGE...  
THE UANGAR  
RARELY CALL  
UPON ME!  
WONDER  
WHAT'S  
HAPPENED?





SOON AFTER, THE  
COLORFUL VILLAGE  
OF UANGAR...

GREETINGS,  
CHIEF GAR! YOU  
HAVEN'T NEEDED  
MY HELP IN  
MANY YEARS!  
WHAT HAS  
HAPPENED?

PLEASE... DO NOT BE ALARMED,  
OH GHOST WHO WALKS! WE ARE *NOT*  
IN DANGER...YET! BUT WE DO DESPERATELY  
NEED THE STRENGTH OF YOUR BODY AND  
THE WISDOM OF YOUR MIND! COME!

THE PRECIOUS BLACK PEARL  
OF BENGALI! BUT... WHY HAVE  
YOU TAKEN IT FROM ITS  
SECRET HIDING PLACE?

BECAUSE WE  
KNOW WE MUST  
SHARE ITS  
BEAUTY WITH  
ALL THE  
WORLD, OH  
PHANTOM!

NEXT WEEK... IN CALCUTTA, A  
GREAT INTERNATIONAL PEARL  
EXHIBITION IS TO BE HELD! THE  
AUTHORITIES HAVE PLEADED  
THAT WE ALLOW THEM TO  
EXHIBIT THIS, THE FINEST  
OF ALL PEARLS...

...BUT WE  
FEAR THE  
PEARL  
RAIDERS!

I SEE... AND YOU WANT *ME* TO  
TRAVEL WITH THE PEARL AND KEEP  
AN EYE ON IT!

WILL...  
YOU AID US?

IT WILL BE AN *HONOR*,  
CHIEF GAR! I WILL GUARD  
YOUR GREAT BLACK PEARL  
LIKE MY OWN HEART!

THANK YOU! OH  
THANK YOU, PHANTOM!



**THE FOLLOWING WEEK, IN INDIA, THE PHANTOM WATCHES AS THE BLACK PEARL IS PUT IN A PLACE OF HONOR...**

WE ARE DEEPLY INDEBTED TO THE UANGAR FOR THEIR TRUST, PHANTOM! PLEASE THANK THEM FOR US!

I WILL BE GLAD TO, SIR MOLTEN!

THE EXHIBIT HALL IS WELL-GUARDED... NO WINDOWS... PLENTY OF GUARDS! I GUESS THE PEARL RAIDERS WOULDN'T DARE TACKLE THIS SET-UP!

**BUT THE PHANTOM IS WRONG... FOR AT THIS VERY MOMENT IN THE EXHIBIT HALL'S BASEMENT...**

ALL IS READY, CAIRO! I AM ABOUT TO SHORT-CIRCUIT THE LIGHTS NOW! MY MEN ARE HEADING FOR THEIR STATIONS!

EXCELLENT! GET ON WITH IT!

**SOON AFTER, UP ABOVE...**

THE LIGHTS! WH-WHAT'S HAPPENED TO OUR LIGHTS?!

COULD BE JUST AN ELECTRICAL SHORT-CIRCUIT...OR SOMETHING MAY BE UP... BETTER GET CLOSE TO THOSE PEARLS!

**SUDDENLY, DARK FORMS SLAM INTO THE PHANTOM...**

OOOF!

**PANIC REIGNS...**

NOW, MOVE!

DARK FORMS... MOVING TOWARD THE EXIT... ONE OF THEM HAS THE PEARL!



OUTSIDE, A SWIFTLY-MOVING  
PLAN IS CARRIED OUT WITH  
GREAT PRECISION...

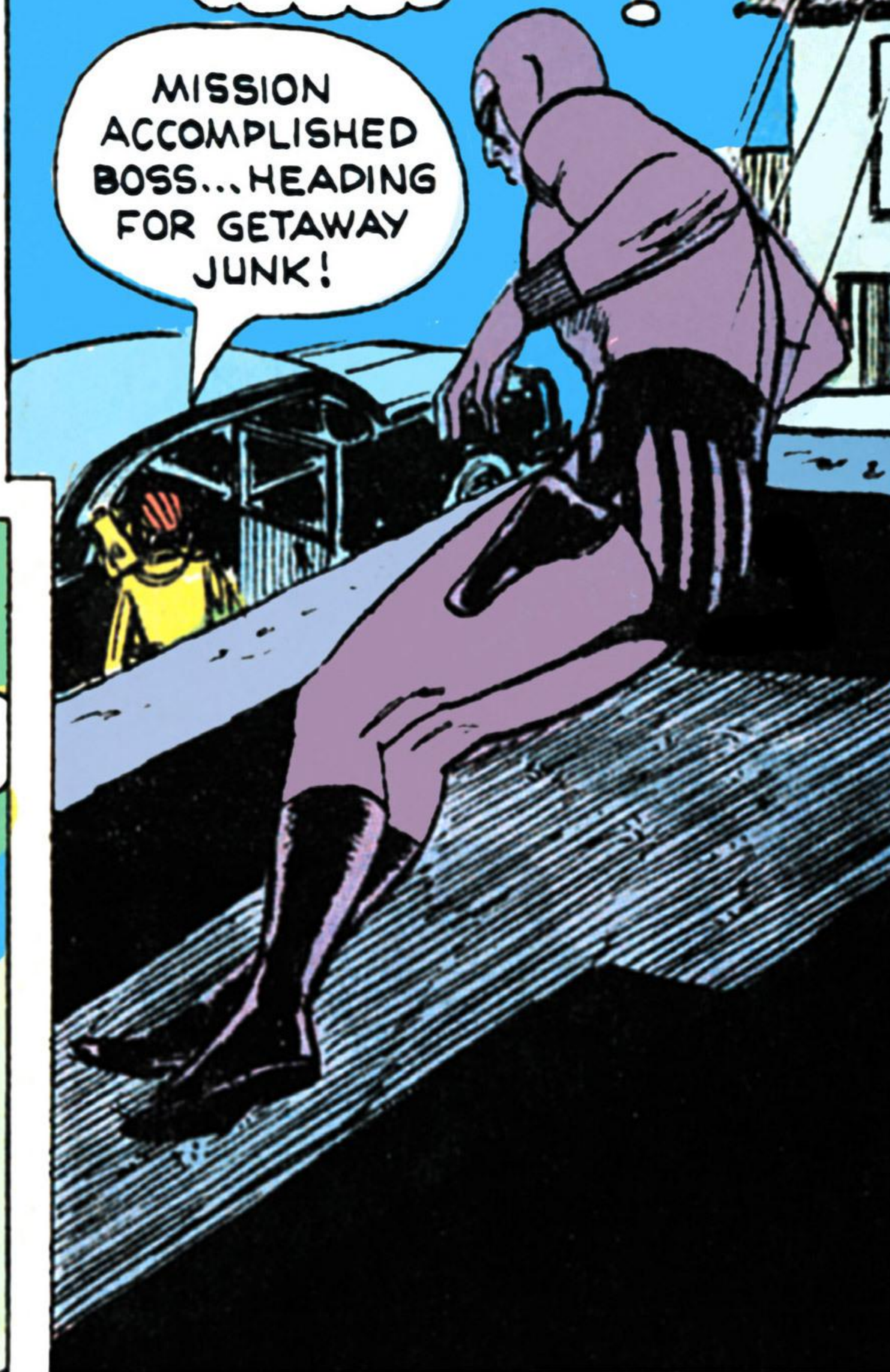
THE FIRE ESCAPE! A NEATLY  
ENGINEERED PLAN... I CAN  
SEE NOW WHY THE PEARL  
RAIDERS ARE SO HARD  
TO CATCH!



AS THE PHANTOM SWINGS  
DOWN IN PURSUIT...

HMM... THE CHIEF HOOD /SW/IT  
WITH THESE CHARACTERS...  
HE'S THE **BRAINS** BEHIND  
THE JOB!

MISSION  
ACCOMPLISHED  
BOSS... HEADING  
FOR GETAWAY  
JUNK!



THE GHOST WHO WALKS  
COMMANDEERS A PASSING  
MOTORCYCLE...

IF I PULL THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER  
THESE BARONS *NOW*, IT WILL BE  
LIKE CUTTING OFF THE TAIL OF A  
SNAKE... THE **HEAD** WILL STILL  
BE FREE...



CLEVER... MAKING A GETAWAY  
IN A CHINESE JUNK... ONE AMONG  
**THOUSANDS** ALONG THE COAST!

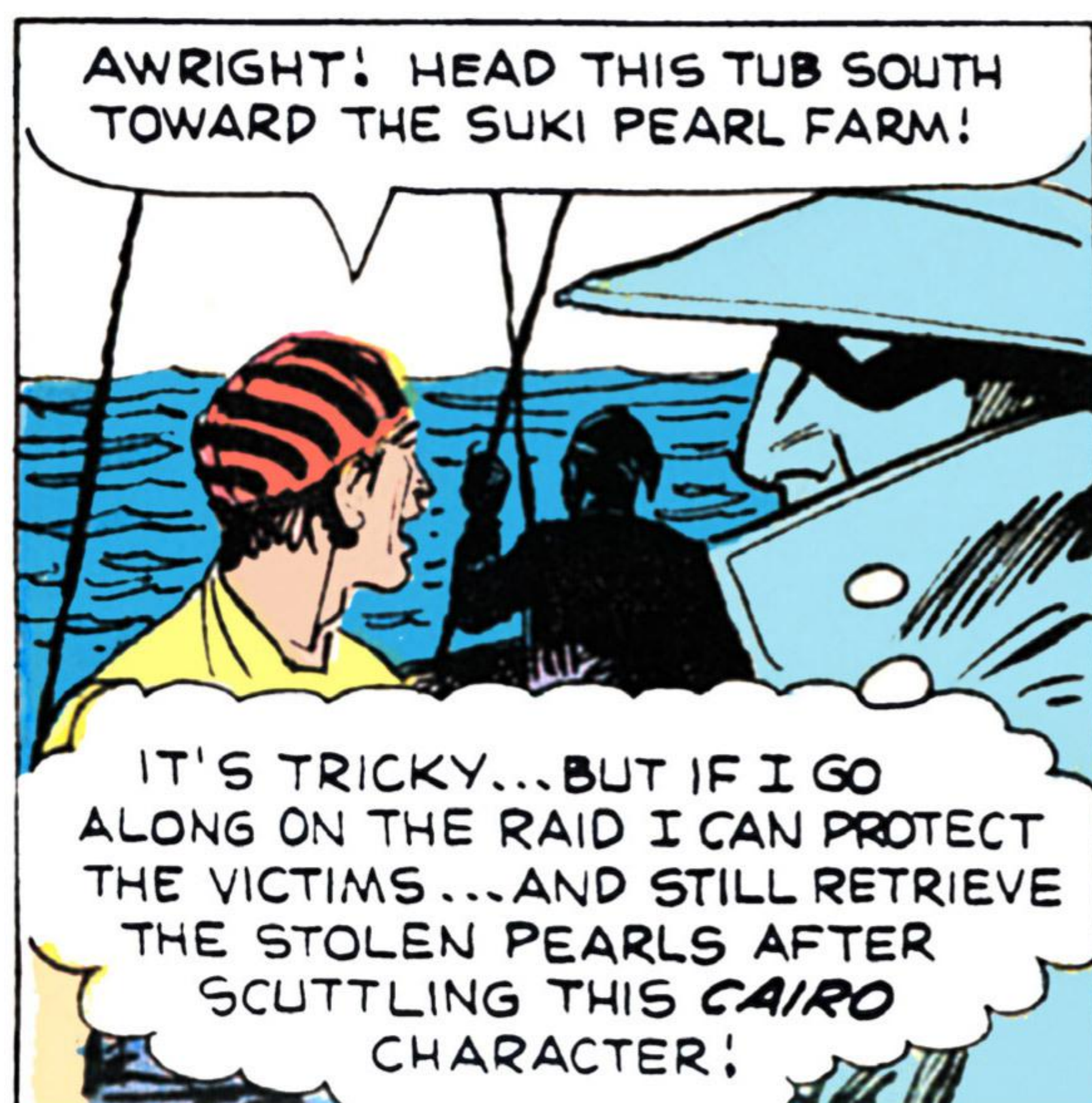
WHERE IN BLAZES IS  
THAT NEW DECK HAND?  
HE WAS SUPPOSED TO  
BE WAITING DOCKSIDE!



**NEW** DECK HAND... THIS  
WOULD BE HIM COMING *NOW*!  
AND THEY CAN'T BE VERY  
FAMILIAR WITH HIM  
IF HE'S **NEW**!









AS THE RAID PROGRESSES, THE GHOST WHO WALKS MOVES SWIFTLY TO PROTECT THE WORKERS...



RUN QUICKLY! HAVE THE POLICE LOCK THAT MAN UP! DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR PEARLS — THEY WILL BE RETURNED!



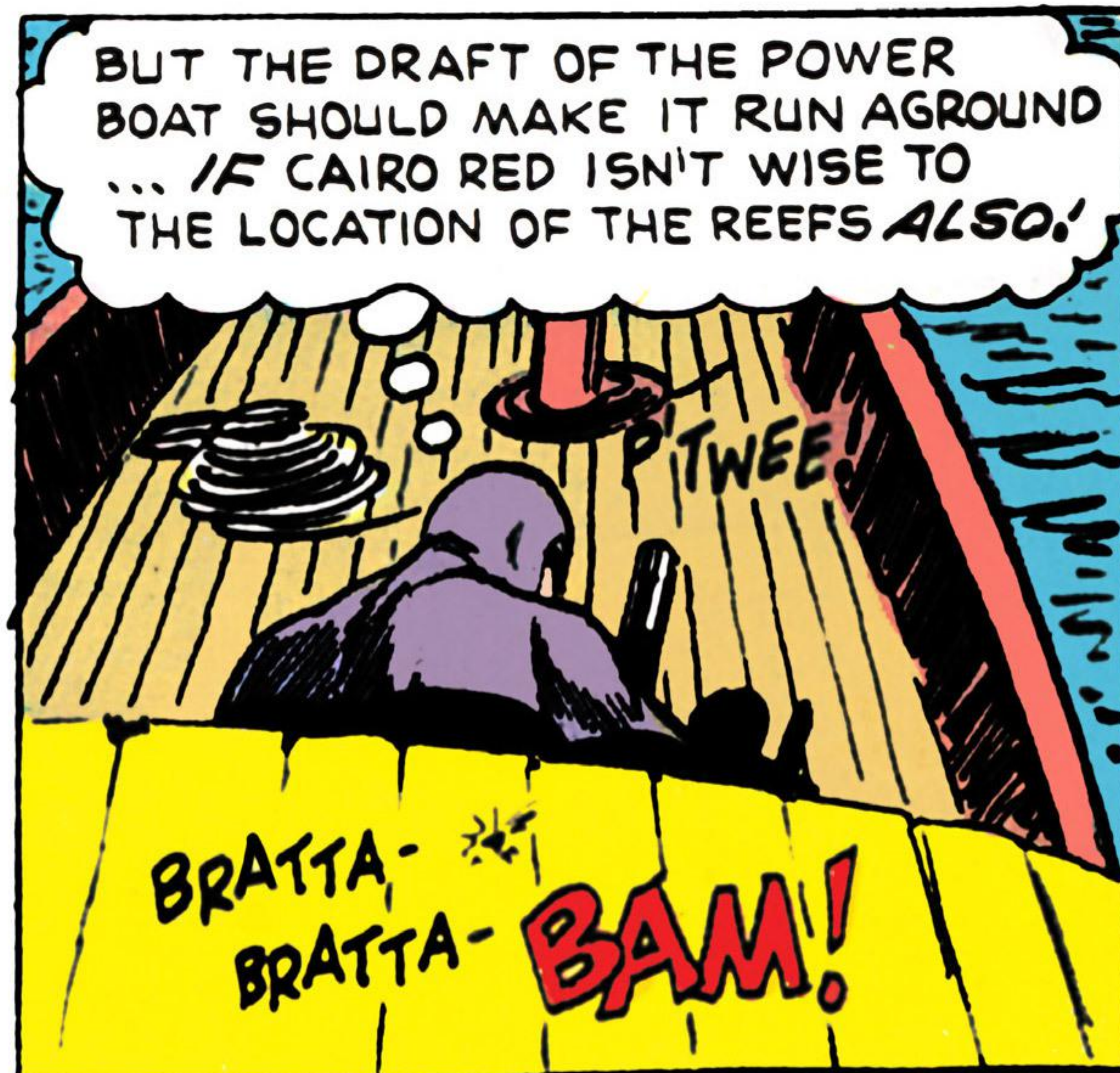
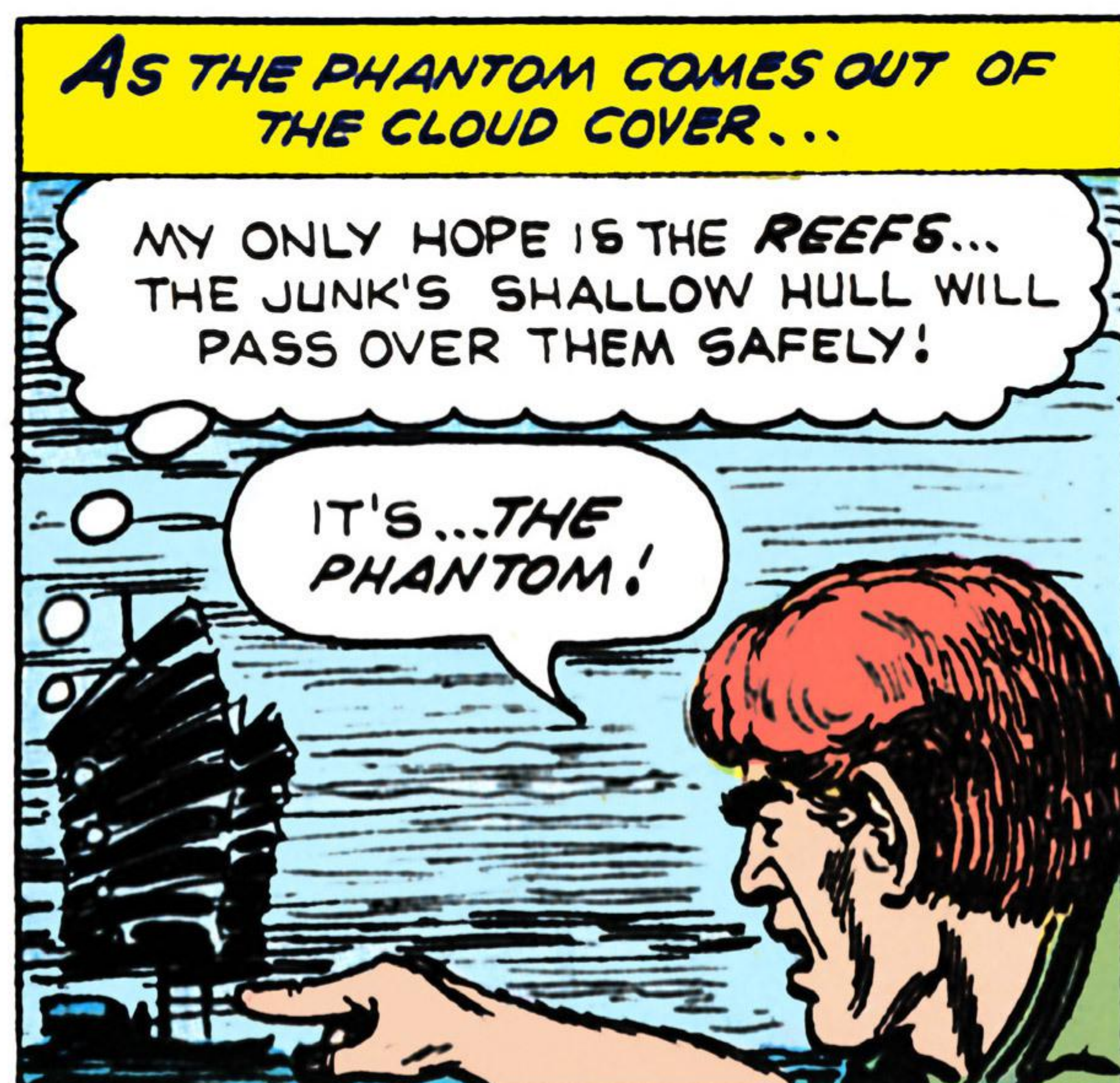
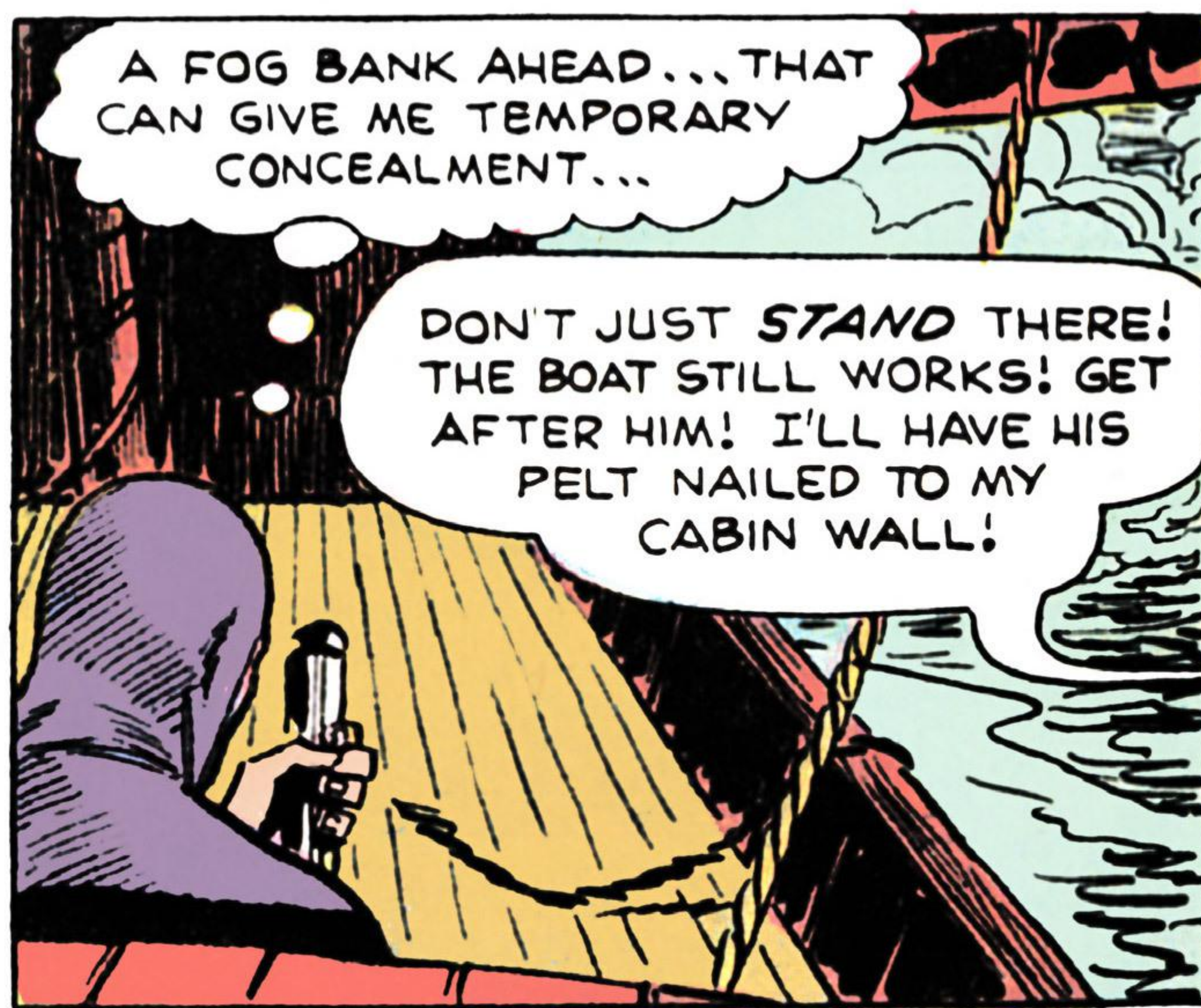
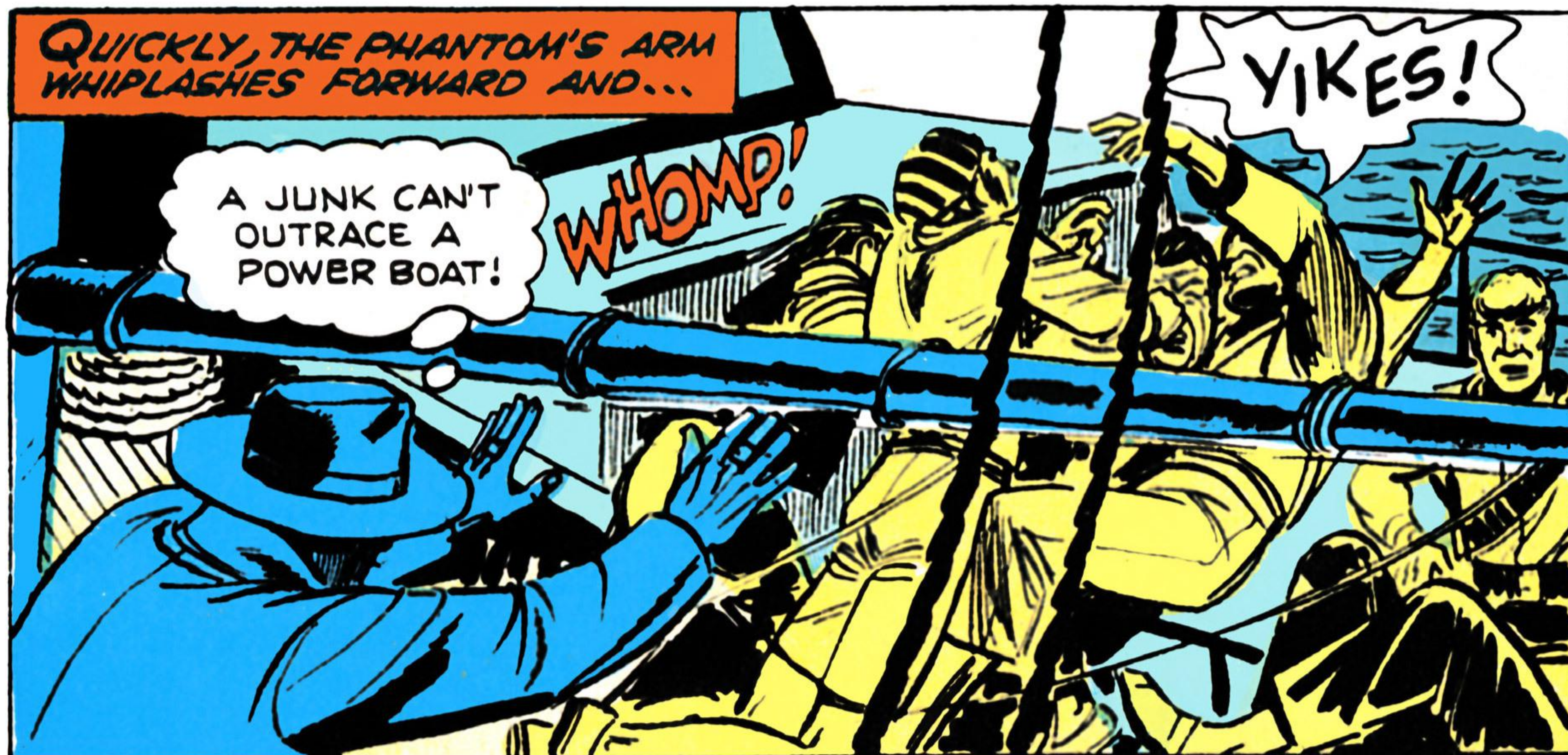
THE RAID OVER, THE JUNK SETS SAIL...



AND LATER, IN THE BAY OF BENGAL...









**HOT LEAD PLAYS A PATTERN OF DEATH ON THE JUNK... CLOSER... CLOSER IT MOVES TOWARD THE HIDDEN REEFS...**

A FEW MORE YARDS... JUST A FEW MORE YARDS...



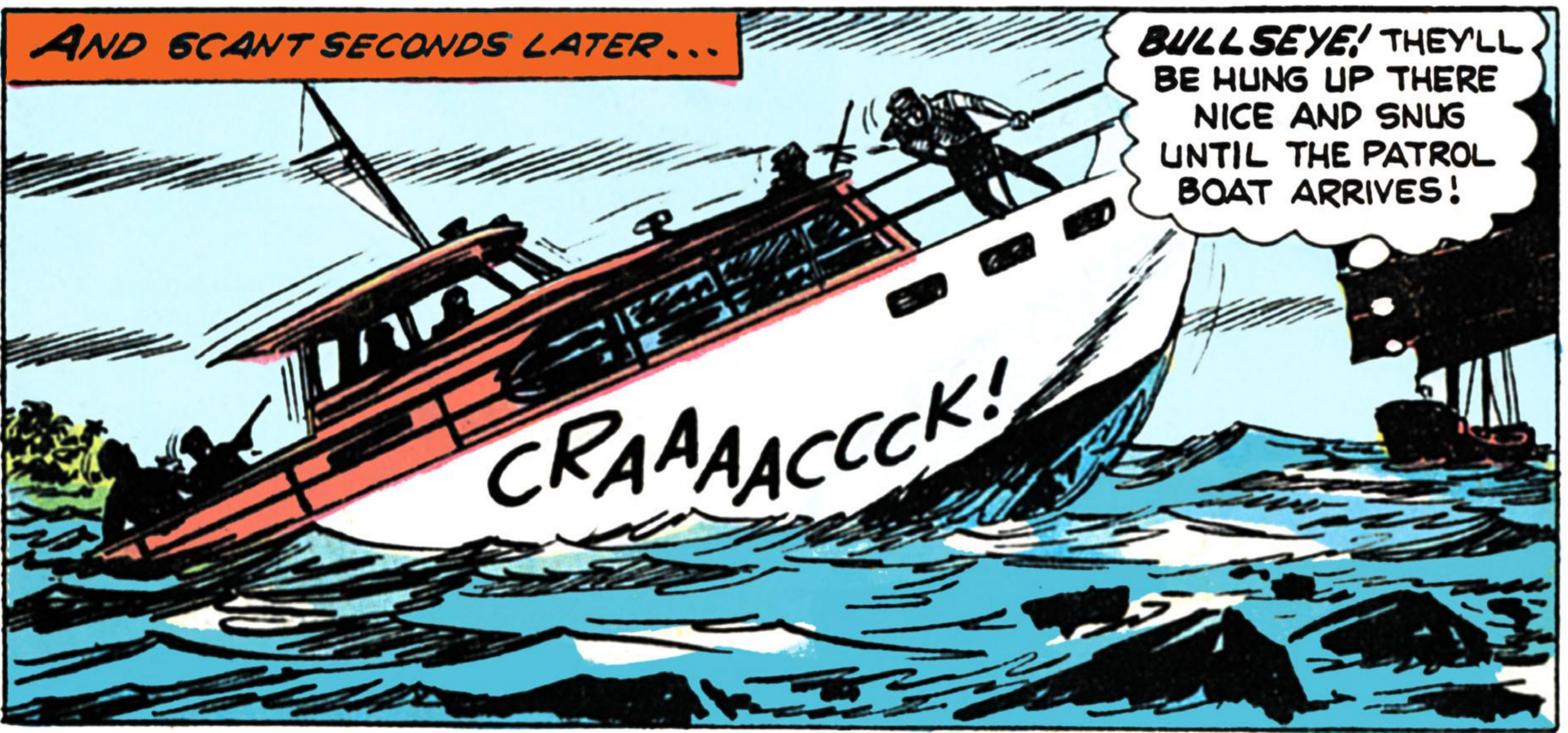
**THEN...**

I'M OVER THEM... NOW IF CAIRO RED KEEPS MOVING DEAD AHEAD...



**AND SCANT SECONDS LATER...**

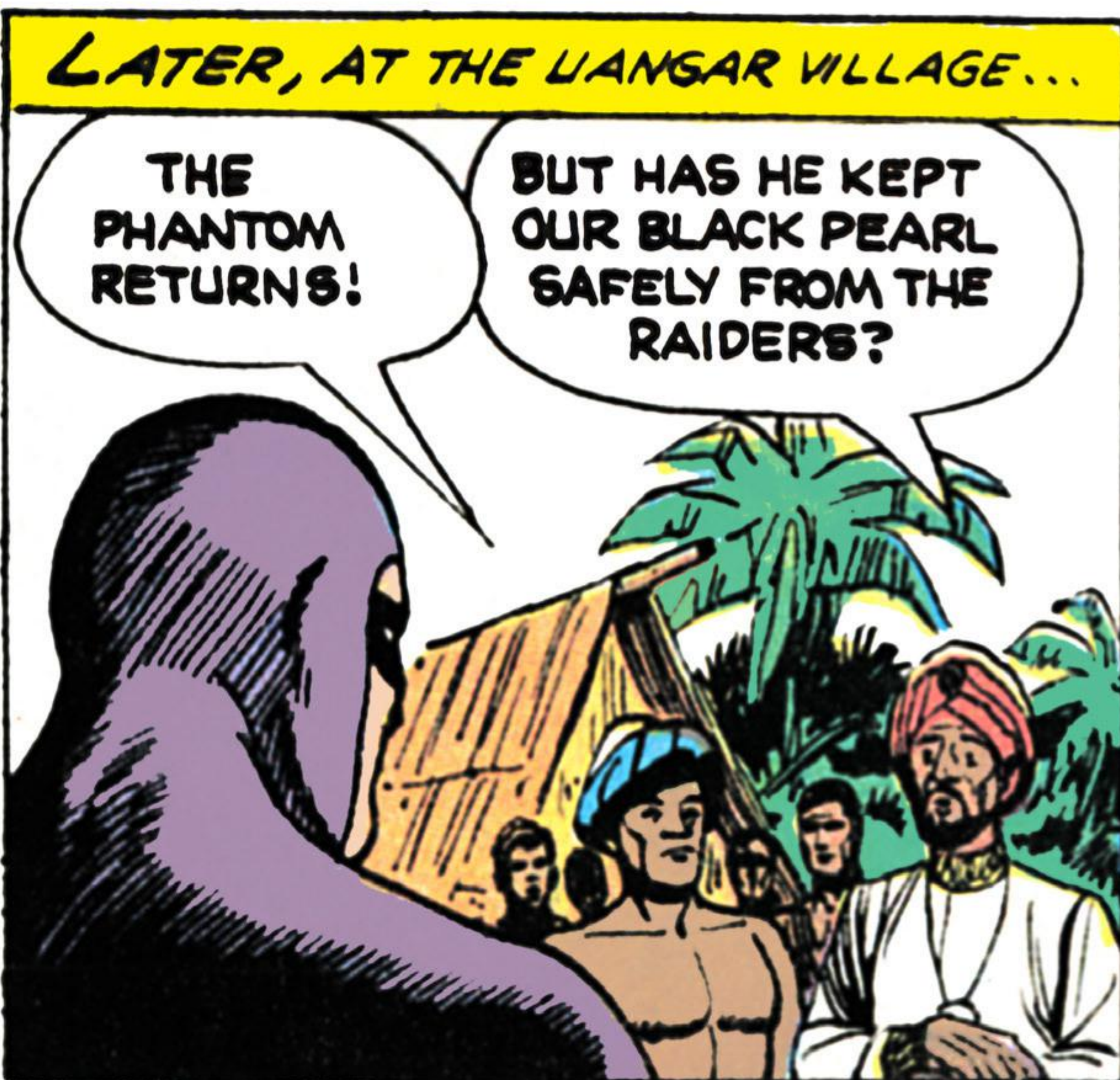
**BULLSEYE!** THEY'LL BE HUNG UP THERE NICE AND SNUG UNTIL THE PATROL BOAT ARRIVES!



**LATER, AT THE UANGAR VILLAGE...**

THE PHANTOM RETURNS!

BUT HAS HE KEPT OUR BLACK PEARL SAFELY FROM THE RAIDERS?



THE UANGAR THANK YOU A THOUSAND TIMES, OH PHANTOM! WE PRAY YOU DID NOT FIND DANGER IN SERVING US!

EVERYTHING WENT PERFECTLY, CHIEF! YOUR PEARL WASN'T IN DANGER FOR A SINGLE SECOND!







Above: original Jim Aparo artwork for Charlton's *The Phantom* #32, read the entire story in Hermes Press' *The Phantom: The Complete Series: The Charlton Years: Volume One*.



# THE PHANTOM





# THE PHANTOM

# THE STORY OF HERO



**T**HE PHANTOM CHRONICLES TELL  
MANY STRANGE AND EXCITING  
STORIES OF PHANTOMS PAST AND  
PRESENT. PROBABLY THE MOST  
INTERESTING OF ALL TELLS OF OUR  
PHANTOM AND HIS AMAZING HORSE,  
**HERO!**

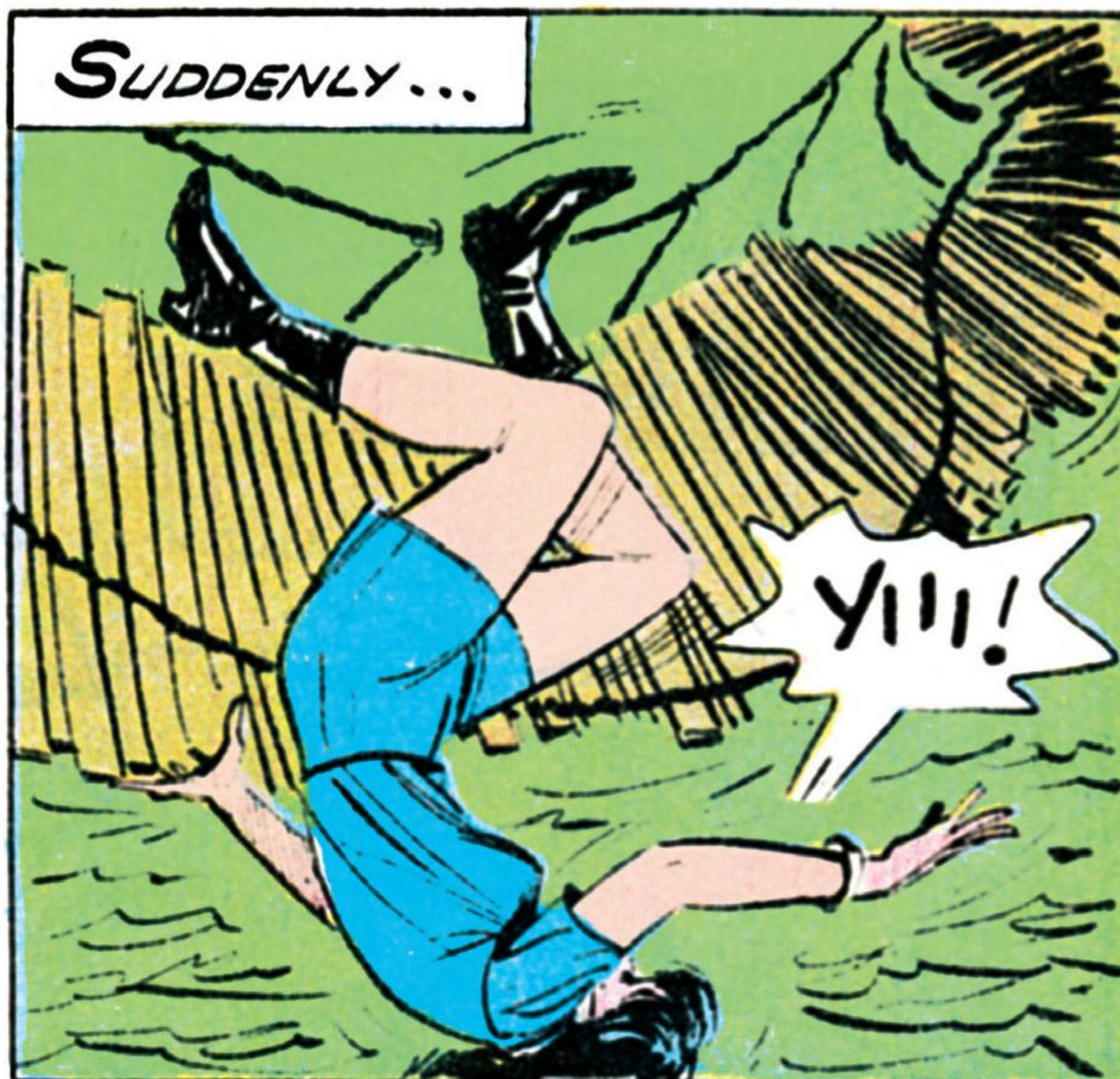
KA



*HAVING DECIDED TO PAY THE PHANTOM A SURPRISE VISIT, DIANA PALMER CROSSES A CRUDE ROPE BRIDGE OVER A RAGING RIVER...*



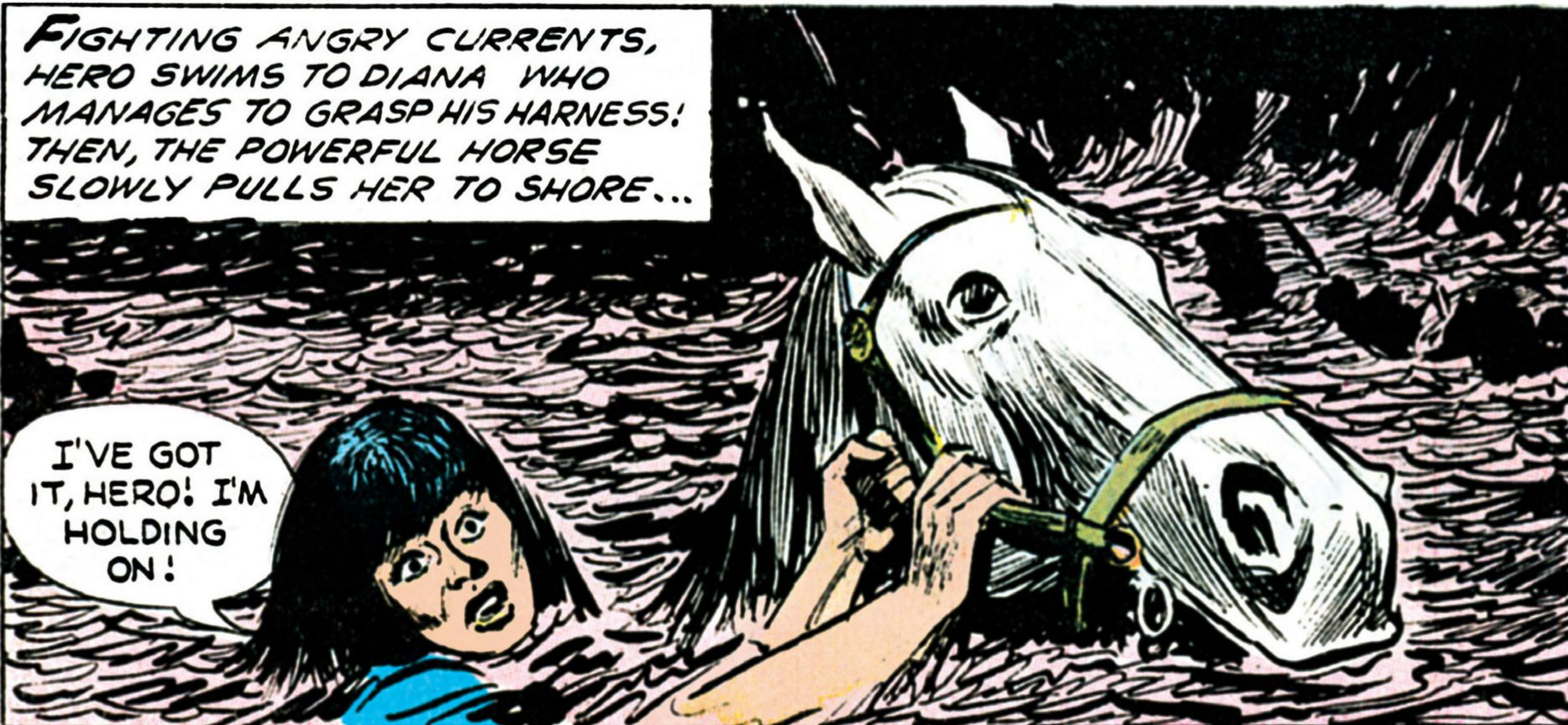
*SUDDENLY...*



*NEAR THE RIVER, HERO HAS BEEN GRAZING ALONE... HIS SENSITIVE EARS PICK UP THE SOUND OF DIANA'S SCREAMS...*



*FIGHTING ANGRY CURRENTS, HERO SWIMS TO DIANA WHO MANAGES TO GRASP HIS HARNESS! THEN, THE POWERFUL HORSE SLOWLY PULLS HER TO SHORE...*





LATER, IN THE DEEP WOODS...

HE SAVED  
MY LIFE!

THERE IS NO HORSE IN THE  
WORLD LIKE HERO! HE IS A  
BRAVE AND GALLANT  
FRIEND!

YOU NEVER TOLD ME... HOW  
WERE YOU LUCKY ENOUGH TO  
FIND A HORSE LIKE *HERO*?

IT'S QUITE A STORY, DIANA!  
IT GOES BACK TO THE TIME  
WHEN I FIRST BECAME  
PHANTOM!

"YEARS AGO, TWO EVIL MEN  
TRAVELED TOWARD THE KINGDOM  
OF KABORA WITH ONE PURPOSE...  
TO *KIDNAP* THE DAUGHTER OF  
KING SUROBI!"

THERE IT IS! SUROBI'S  
PALACE! JUST AS THE  
MAP SAYS... THE JUNGLE  
ON ONE SIDE AND  
DESERT ON THE OTHER!

HE'S VERY  
WEALTHY! HE'LL  
PAY *ANY* RANSOM  
WE ASK!

YEAH! BUT  
FIRST, WE'VE GOT  
TO GET HIS  
DAUGHTER! I  
HEAR HE HAS  
*VICIOUS DOGS*  
GUARDING THE  
PLACE!

IT'LL TAKE  
MORE'N A PACK  
OF DOGS TO  
OUT-SMART  
NEWT LESTER!

WHY DO YOU THINK I BROUGHT  
ALL THIS *RAW MEAT*? THEY  
WON'T PAY *US* ANY ATTENTION  
WHEN THEY SEE THIS!



*THAT NIGHT, THE KIDNAPPERS  
BEGIN TO EXECUTE THEIR PLAN...*



*THEY KNOW THE LAYOUT  
OF THE PALACE...*

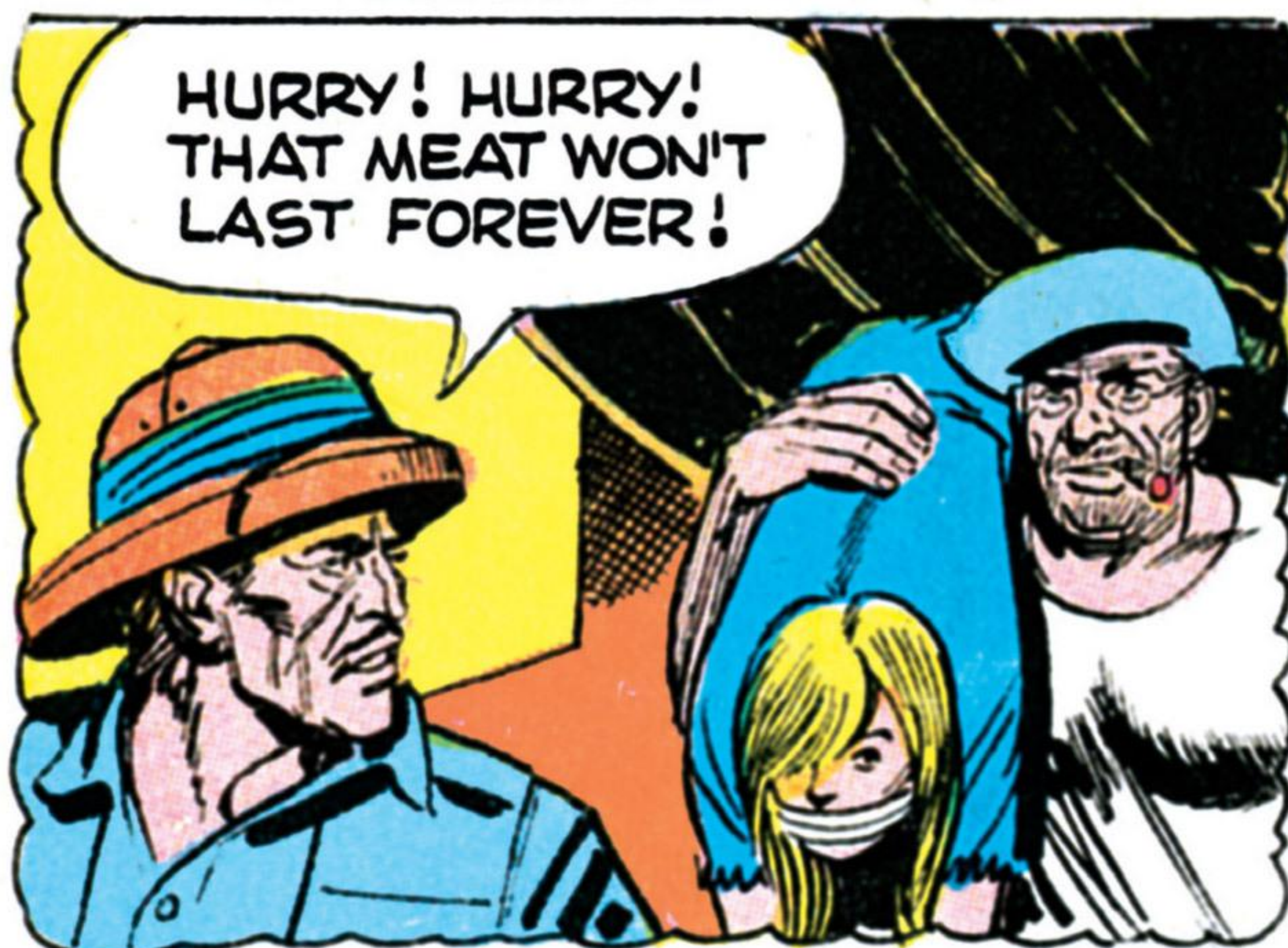


*... AND SOON FIND THEIR WAY  
TO THE GIRL'S ROOM...*





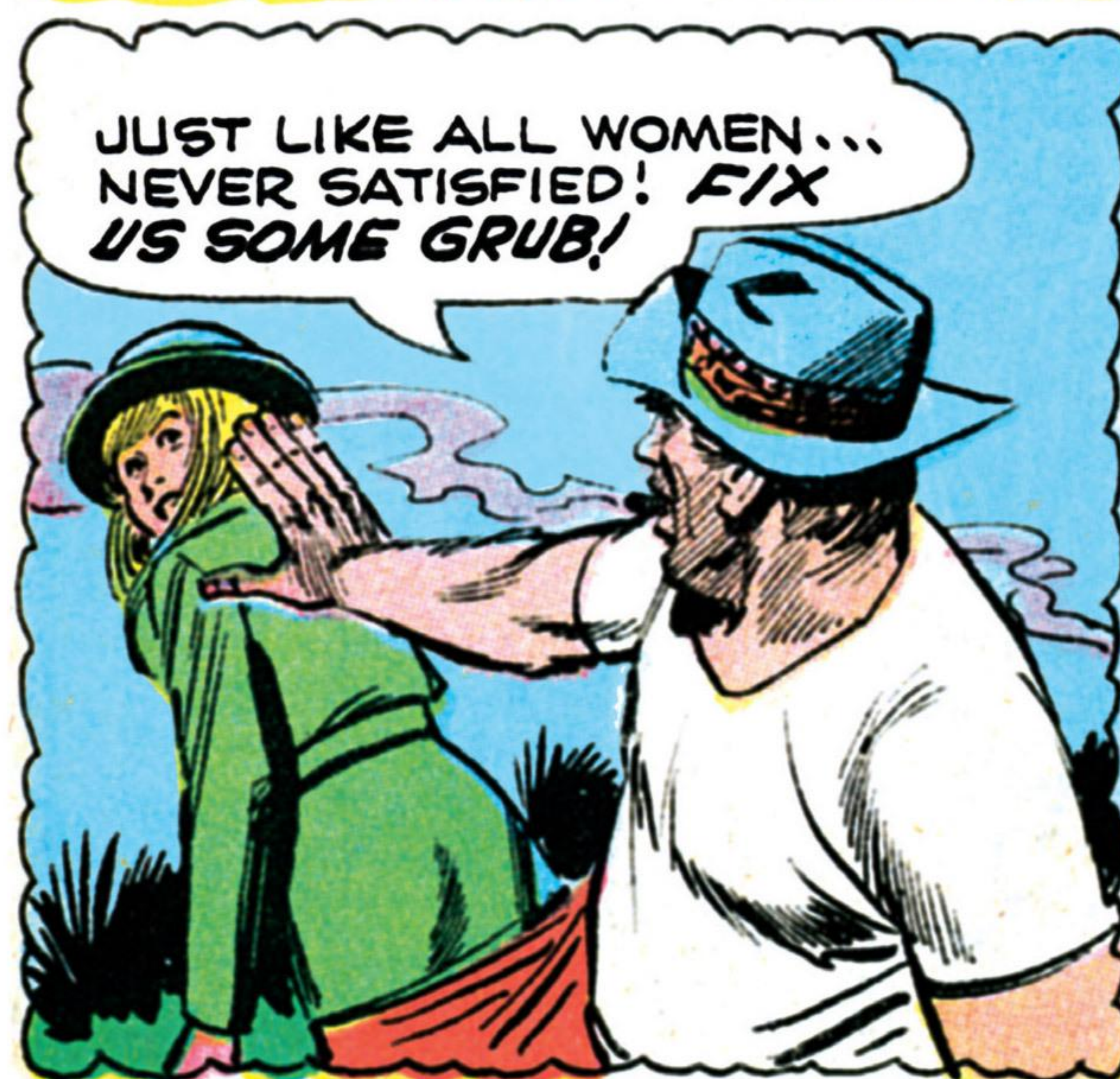
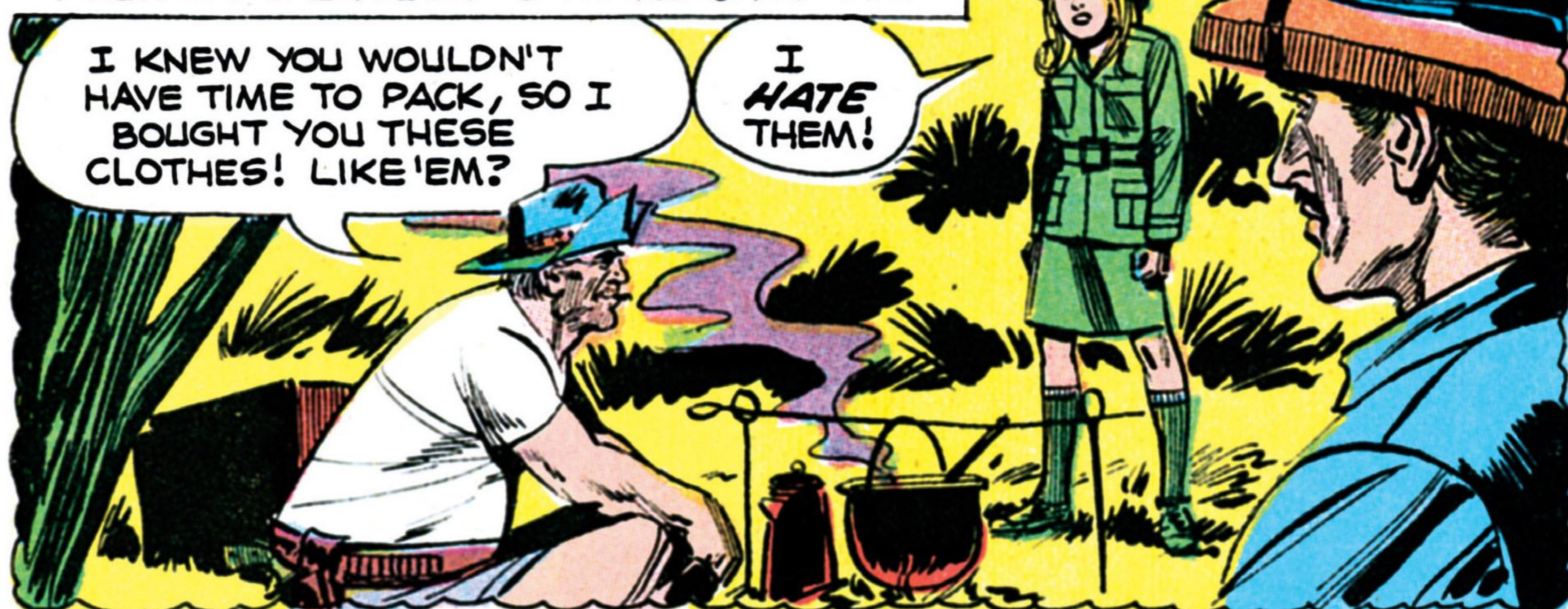
*WITH PERFECT TIMING, THE KIDNAPPERS MAKE THEIR ESCAPE, WHILE THE REST OF THE PALACE SLEEPS...*



*SWIFTLY, THEY DRIVE DEEP INTO THE JUNGLE...*



*MILES AWAY FROM THE PALACE, THEY FEEL SAFE ENOUGH TO MAKE CAMP...*

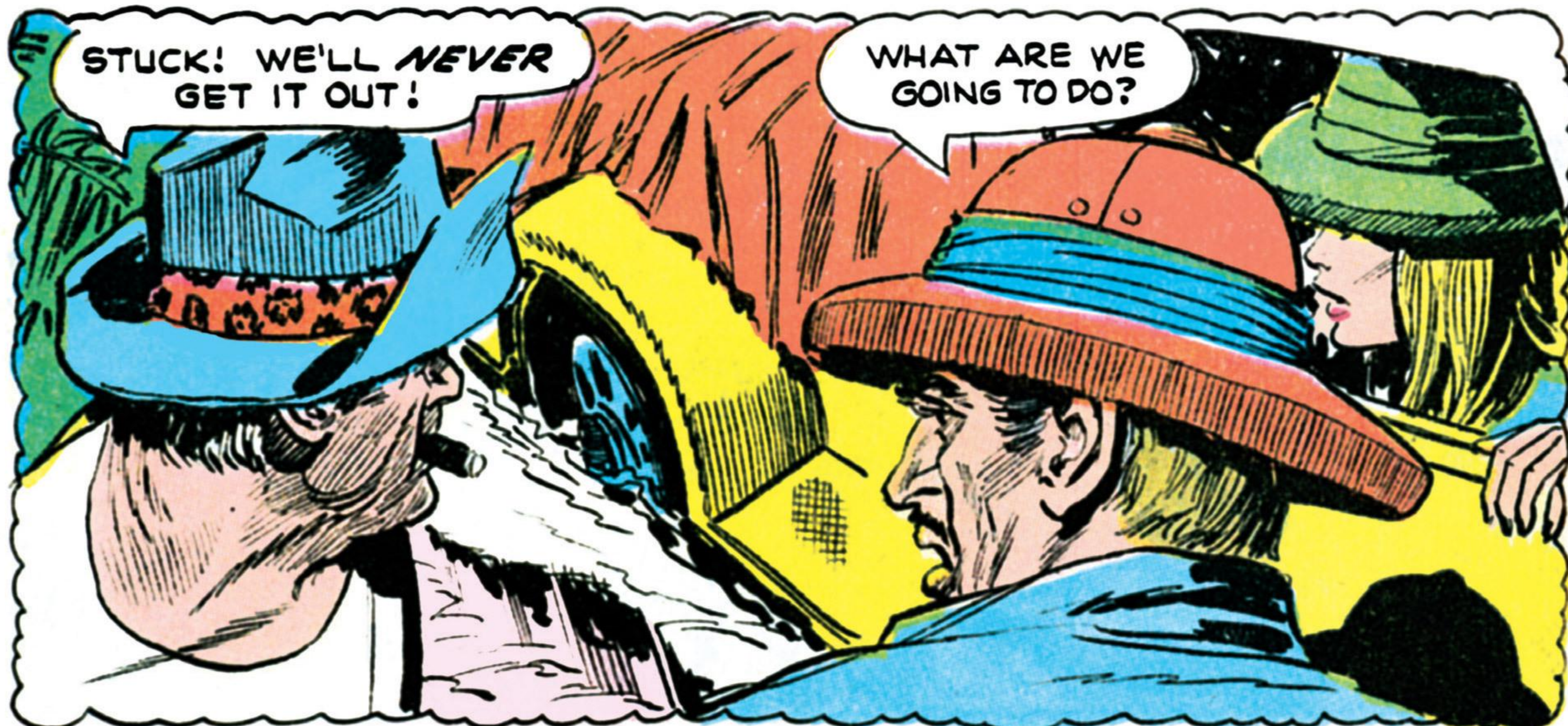
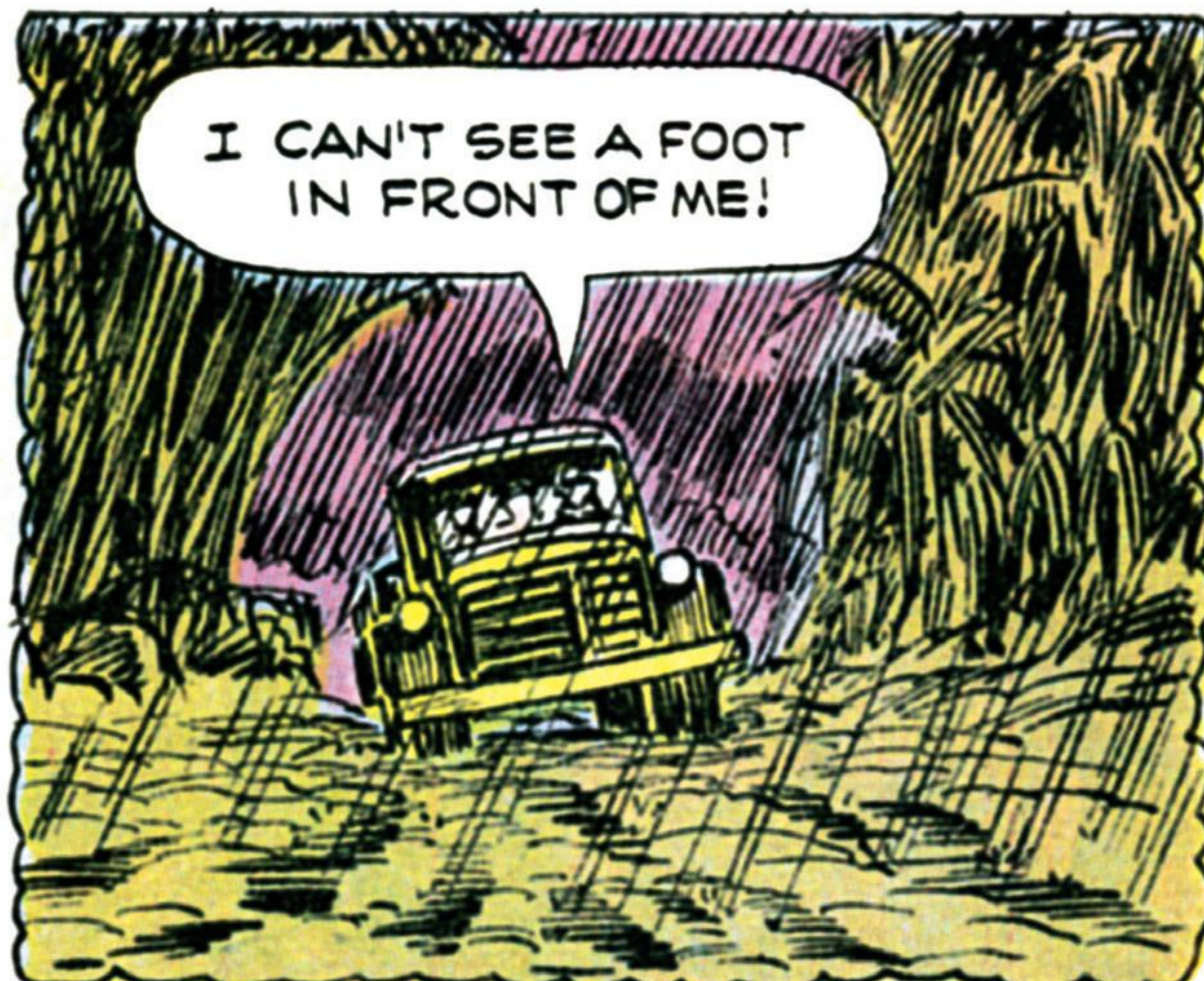




THE NEXT DAY THEY CONTINUE  
THEIR JOURNEY...



BUT THE JUNGLE HAS STRANGE  
WAYS OF DEALING WITH EVIL...



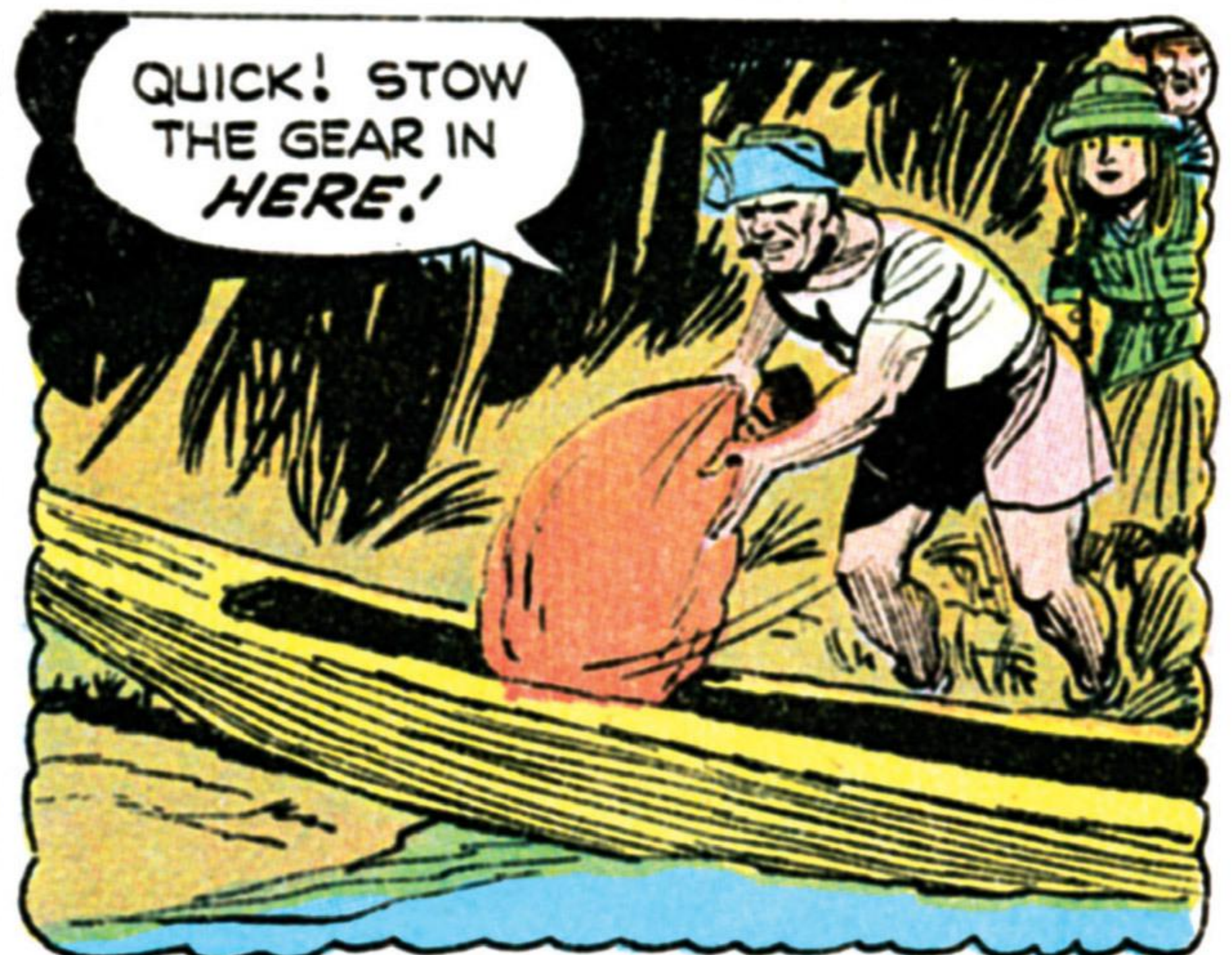


**SLOWLY, THE TRIO MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE JUNGLE. THEY DON'T KNOW IT, BUT THEY ARE ENTERING BENGALI COUNTRY, AND SILENT EYES ARE WATCHING ...**



**SOON, JUNGLE DRUMS BEGIN TO SPEAK TO THE PHANTOM...**

**THEY REACH THE RIVER, AND, AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, FIND A CANOE...**



**BUT THEIR LUCK TAKES A SUDDEN TURN FOR THE WORSE...**





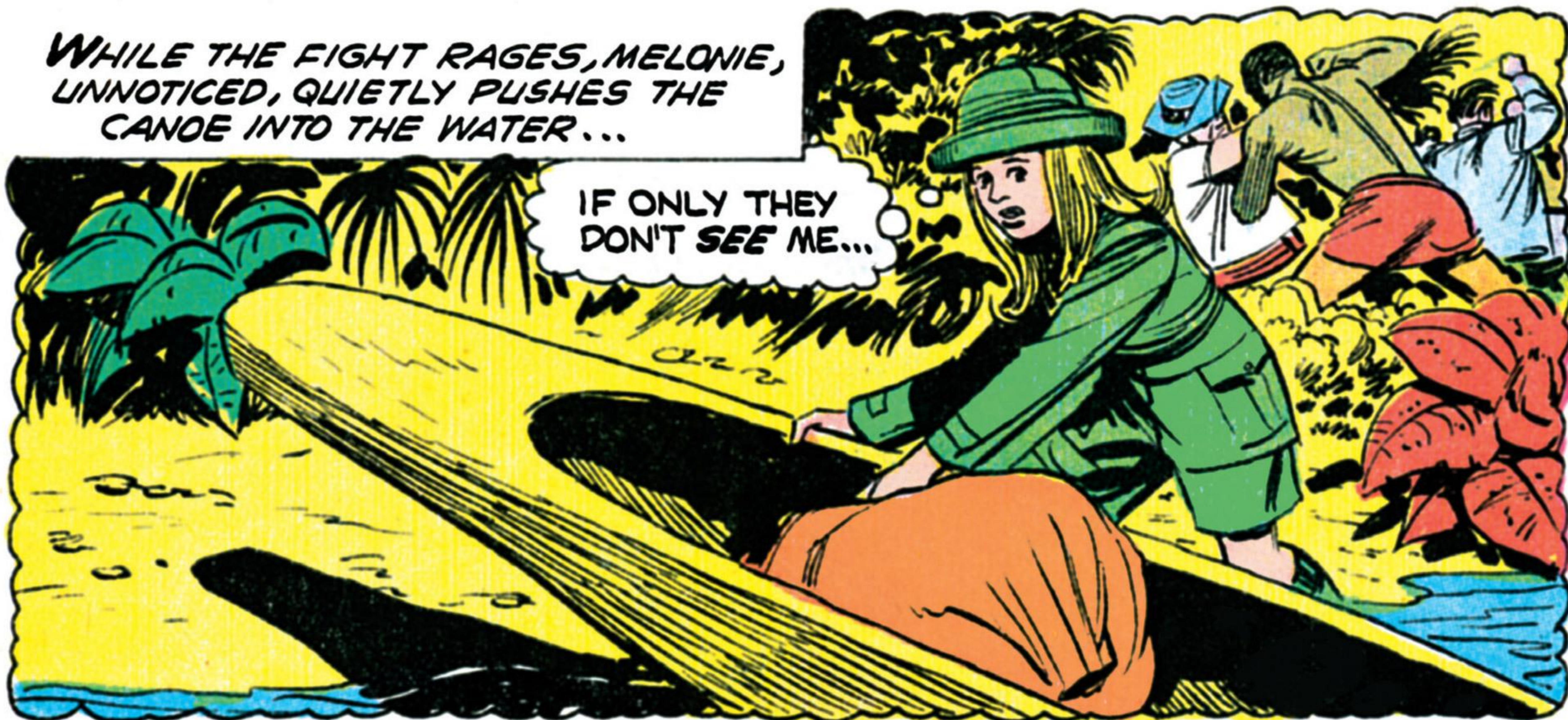
TRY AND STOP US!



ANOTHER NATIVE APPEARS, AND THE KIDNAPPERS HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL!



WHILE THE FIGHT RAGES, MELONIE, UNNOTICED, QUIETLY PUSHES THE CANOE INTO THE WATER...



IF ONLY THEY DON'T SEE ME...

HEY! SHE'S GETTING AWAY!!



GONE!

I *KNEW* I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LISTENED TO *YOU*! IT WAS A HAIRBRAINED IDEA FROM THE START!





MOMENTS LATER, THE PHANTOM ARRIVES TO FIND THE TWO MEN IN THE HANDS OF THE BANDAR, THE PYGMY POISON PEOPLE...

A THOUSAND POISON ARROWS ARE POINTED AT YOU, GENTLEMEN! ONLY MY PRESENCE IS KEEPING YOU ALIVE! WHY WERE YOU IN THE JUNGLE WITH A YOUNG CHILD?

OUT WITH IT!



THEY QUICKLY CONFESS THE KIDNAPPING...

YOU KIDNAPPED KING SUROBI'S DAUGHTER, MELONIE?! *WHERE IS SHE?*

SHE ESCAPED! ... TOOK THE CANOE DOWN THE RIVER!



KEEP THESE MEN **PRISONER** UNTIL I RETURN! I'LL HAND THEM OVER TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES, THEN!

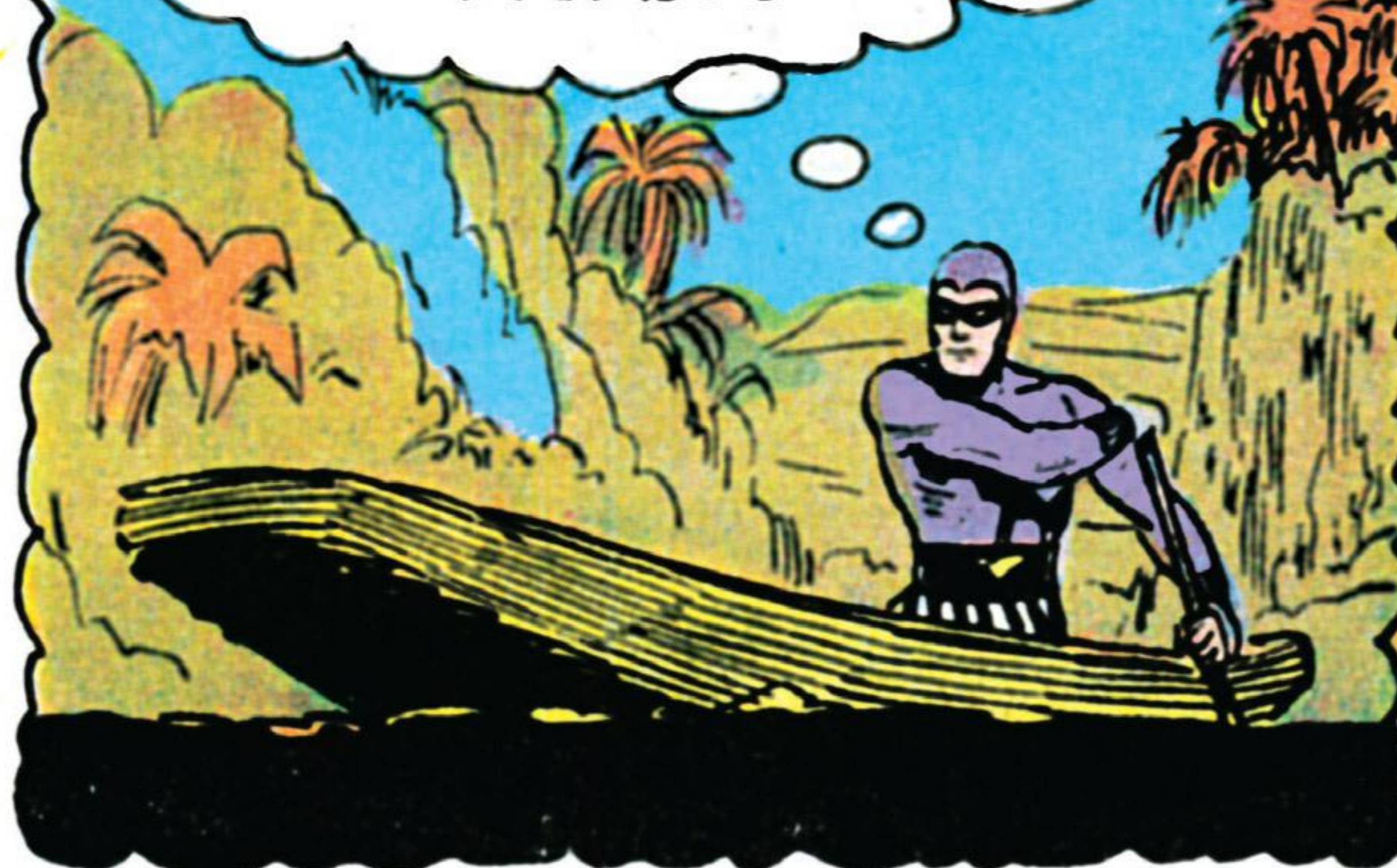
YES, O' GHOST WHO WALKS!



I WOULDN'T ADVISE TRYING TO ESCAPE, GENTLEMEN... THOSE POISON ARROWS KILL IN **SECONDS!**



I'VE GOT TO FIND MELONIE! KING SAROBI IS A FRIEND OF MINE! I REMEMBER HER WHEN SHE WAS ONLY A BABY!





*MILES AHEAD, MELONIE DRIFTS  
IN THE CANOE... IN HER HASTE TO  
ESCAPE, SHE HAS LEFT THE PADDLE  
ON SHORE...*

I DON'T KNOW WHERE  
I'M GOING, BUT ANY-  
THING IS BETTER THAN  
BEING WITH THOSE  
**AWFUL MEN!**



*EXHAUSTED, SHE  
FALLS ASLEEP...*



*NEXT MORNING...*

I'M ASHORE! I  
BETTER GET BACK  
IN THE MIDDLE OF  
THE RIVER WHERE  
IT'S SAFE!



**AAGGH!**

**YII!**

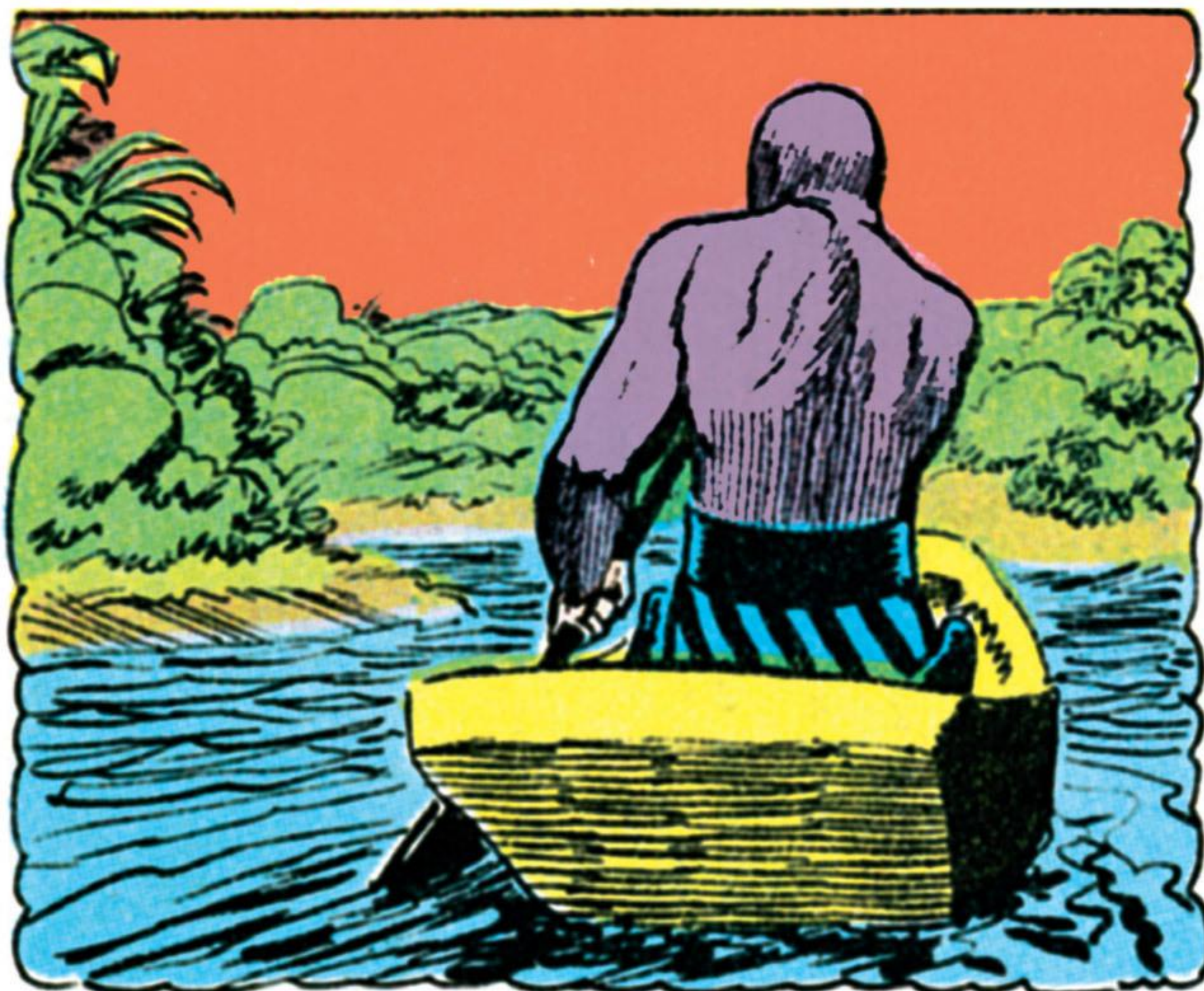


TAKE  
HER TO THE  
**CHIEF!**





**WHILE THE PHANTOM SEARCHES  
THE RIVER BANK...**



**MELONIE IS TAKEN TO THE CHIEF  
OF THE SINKU TRIBE... A REBEL  
BAND OF NATIVE OUTLAWS...**



**THE CHIEF SPEAKS...**

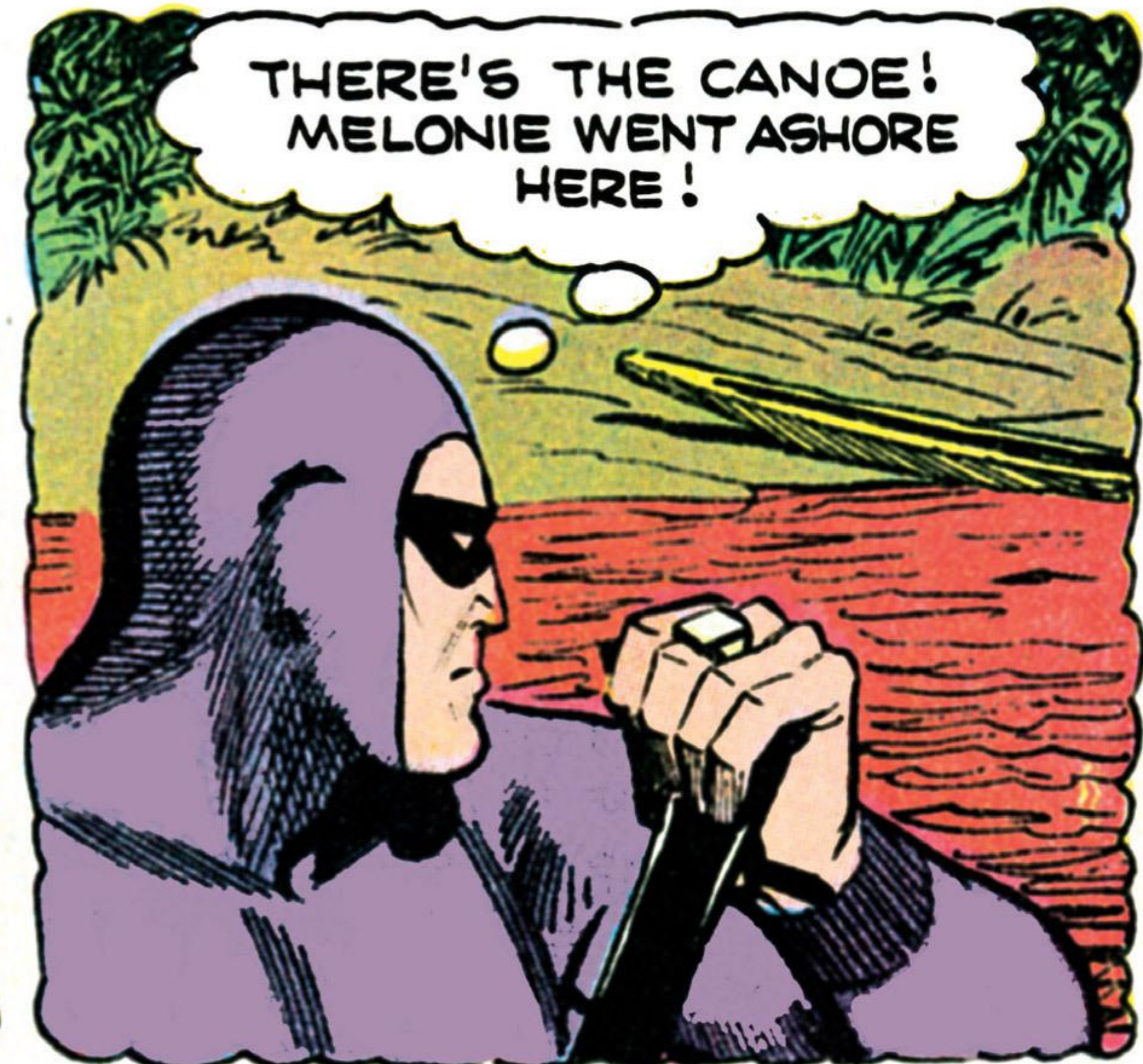
JUNGLE DRUMS TELL ME THIS IS  
THE DAUGHTER OF KING SUROBI OF  
KABORA! SHE WAS KIDNAPPED BY  
TWO MEN WHO HAVE SINCE  
BEEN CAPTURED!



NOW THE RANSOM  
WILL BE OURS!



THERE'S THE CANOE!  
MELONIE WENT ASHORE  
HERE!



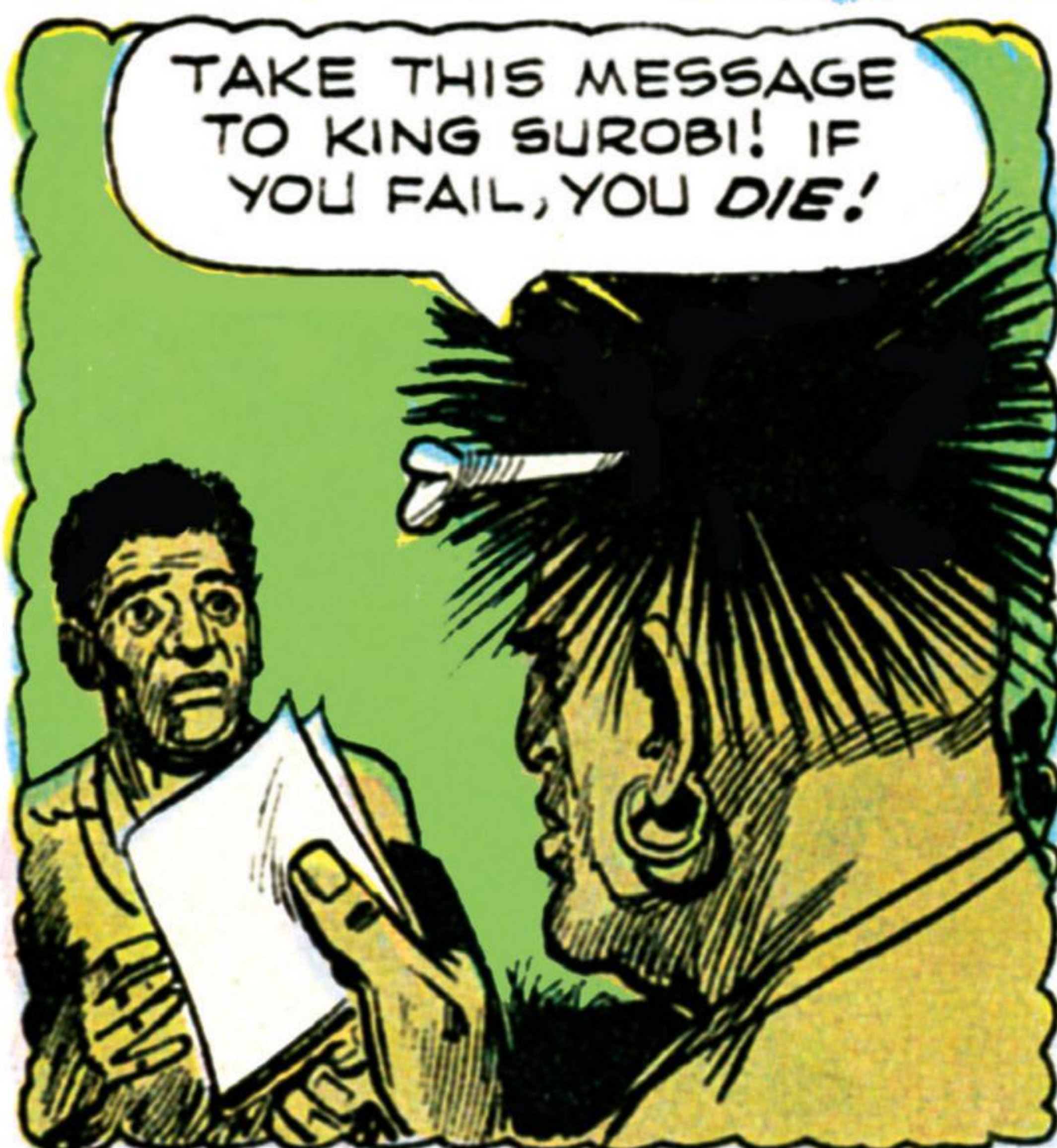




THE SINKU TRIBE!  
THOSE OUTLAW REBELS  
MUST HAVE THE  
GIRL!



I MUST MOVE SILENTLY!  
KNOWING THEM, THEY'LL TRY  
TO COLLECT THE RANSOM!  
THEY'RE A TRICKY, EVIL BUNCH...  
OUTCASTS FROM THEIR  
OWN TRIBE!



TAKE THIS MESSAGE  
TO KING SUROBI! IF  
YOU FAIL, YOU *DIE*!



CHIEF!  
GIRL WAS  
FOLLOWED  
BY GHOST  
WHO WALKS!

*THE PHANTOM!*  
THEY SAY HE *NEVER*  
*DIES!* NOW WE  
SHALL SEE!



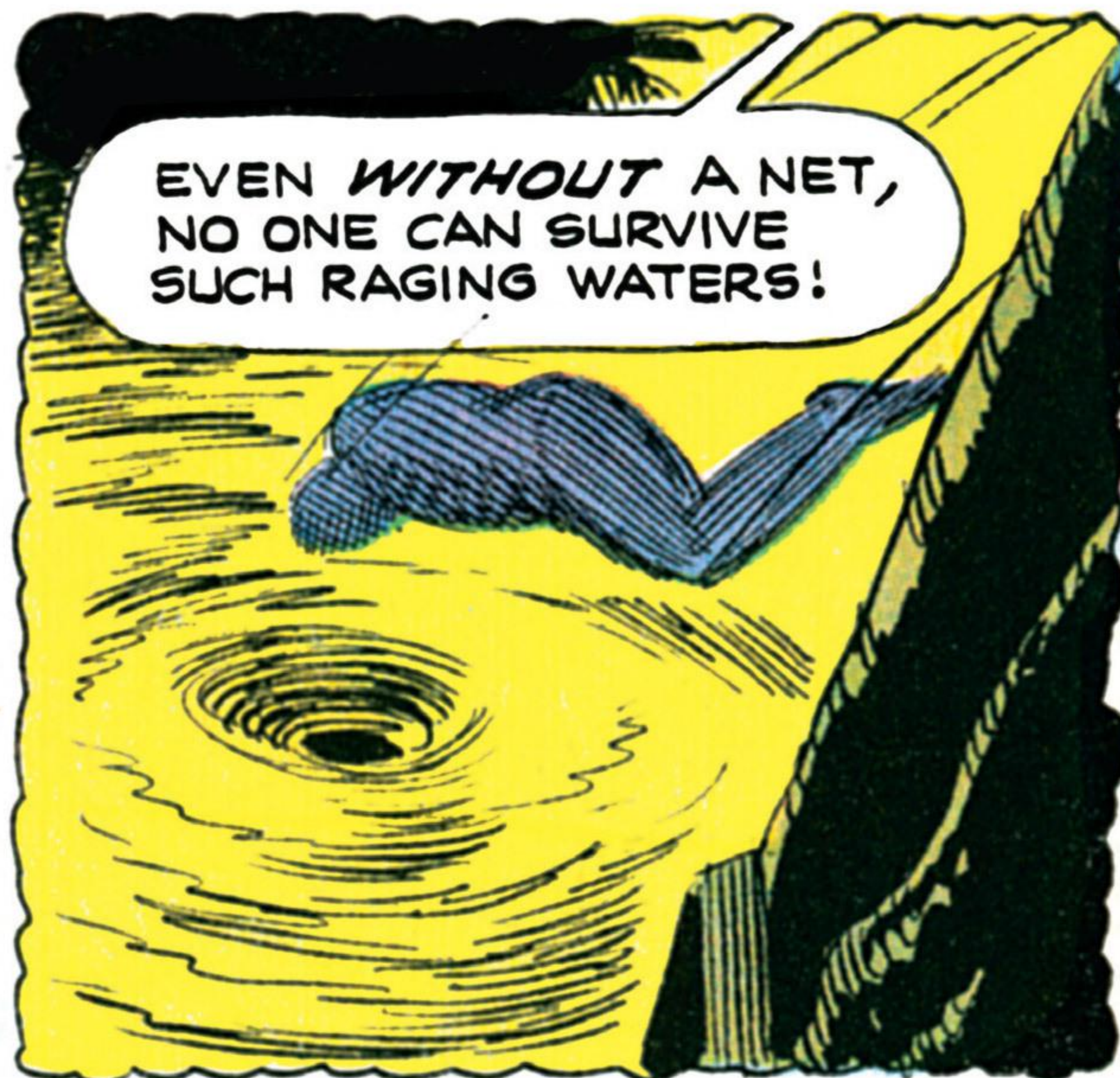
THE GHOST WHO WALKS  
SHALL WALK NO MORE!

WHAT?

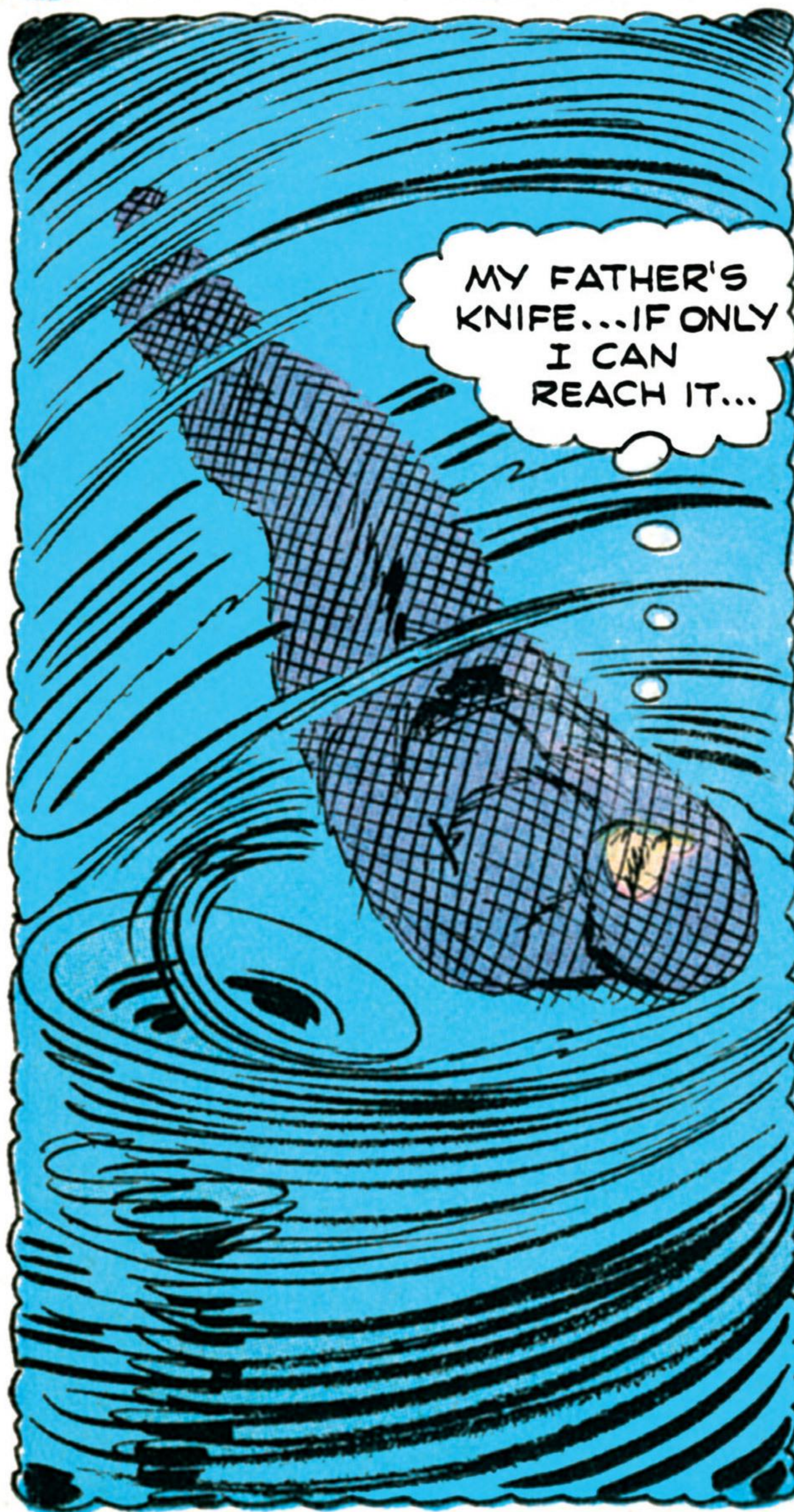




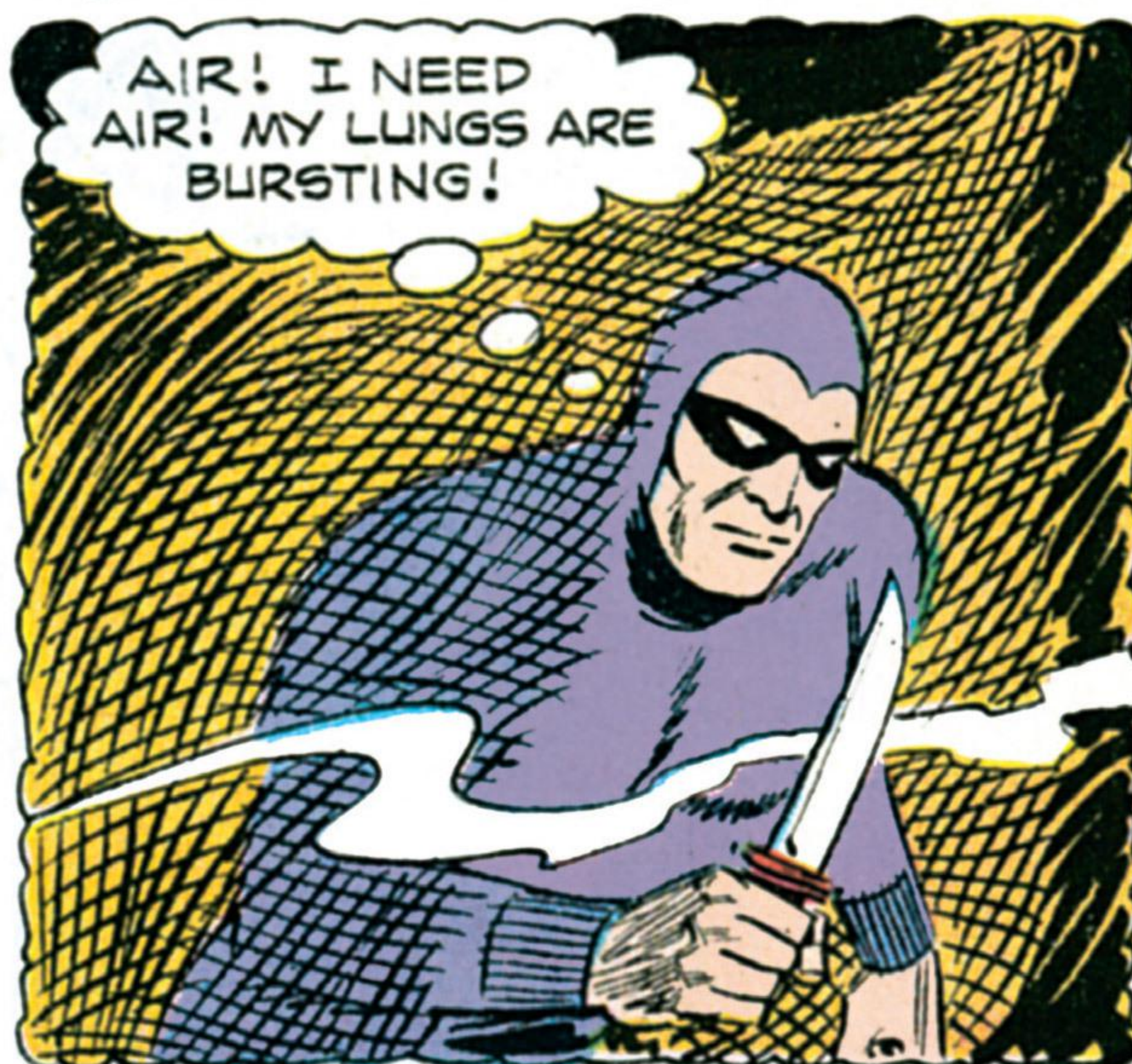
TAKE HIM TO THE  
BLACK WHIRLPOOL!



EVEN *WITHOUT* A NET,  
NO ONE CAN SURVIVE  
SUCH RAGING WATERS!



MY FATHER'S  
KNIFE...IF ONLY  
I CAN  
REACH IT...



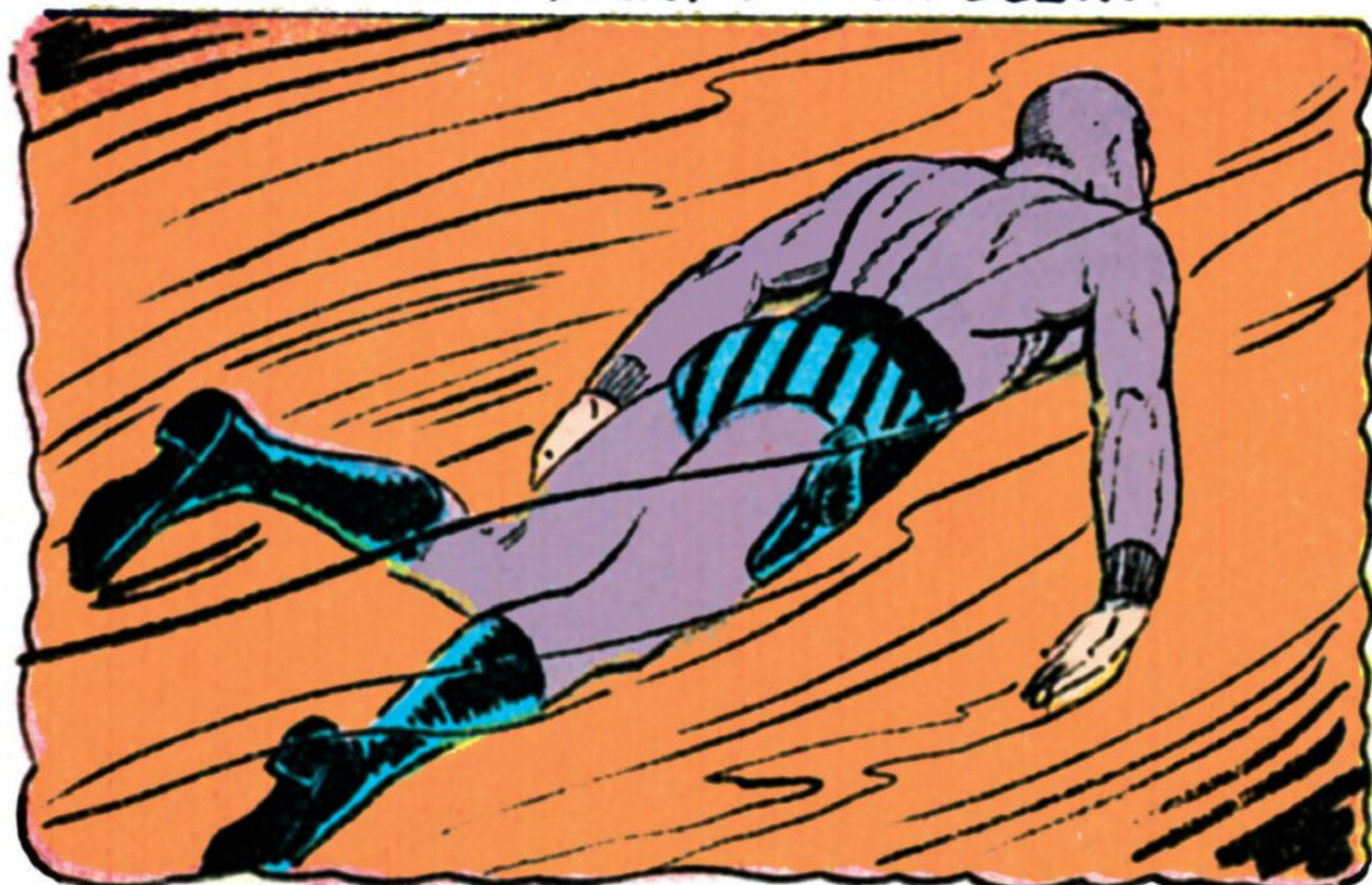
AIR! I NEED  
AIR! MY LUNGS ARE  
BURSTING!



**THE PHANTOM** IS DEAD!  
NOW THE SINKU TRIBE WILL  
RULE THE JUNGLE! BUT *FIRST*,  
WE NEED THE RANSOM!



**BUT THE PHANTOM IS NOT DEAD!  
WITH THE STRENGTH OF TEN MEN, HE  
FIGHTS HIS WAY TO THE SURFACE  
THROUGH THE ANGRY WHIRLPOOL...**



**... AND CLINGS TO A ROCK TO  
CATCH HIS BREATH!**



**WHILE THE SINKU DANCE  
IN CELEBRATION OF THE  
DEATH OF THE PHANTOM!**



**SUDDENLY, THE DANCE STOPS  
AS THE NATIVES SENSE AN EERIE,  
UNKNOWN  
PRESENCE...**



**SOMEONE  
WATCHING!**

**WHO COULD  
IT BE?**

**THE LEGEND OF THE GHOST WHO WALKS IS BROUGHT HOME  
TO THEM AGAIN, AS THE PHANTOM STEPS FROM THE JUNGLE.  
THE NATIVES RUN IN PANIC, IGNORING THEIR CHIEF'S ORDERS!  
THE SIGHT OF THE PHANTOM IS ENOUGH!**



**AIEEE!  
HE  
LIVES!!**

**I TOLD YOU  
HE COULD  
NOT DIE!**

**STOP!  
COME  
BACK!**





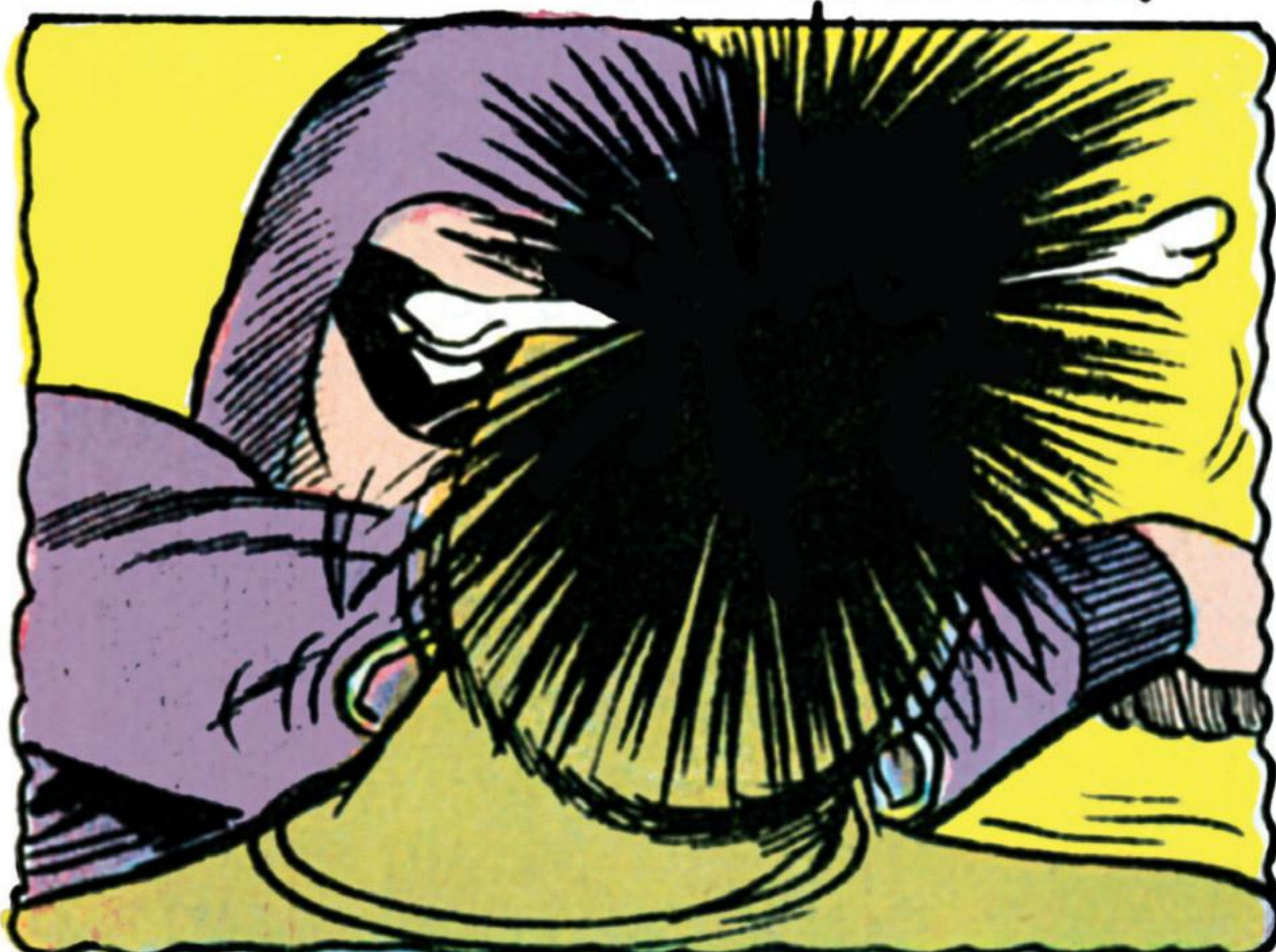
**MOMENTS  
LATER,  
ONLY THE  
PHANTOM  
AND THE  
CHIEF  
REMAIN  
IN THE  
CAMP...**

**LOOKS LIKE  
IT'S JUST YOU  
AND ME, CHIEF!**

**OTHERS COWARDS!  
CHIEF NOT  
AFRAID...**

**THE CHIEF, THOUGH A HARDENED  
JUNGLE FIGHTER, IS NO MATCH FOR  
THE POWER OF THE PHANTOM!**

**"WHEN THE PHANTOM IS ANGRY,  
HIS BLOWS SOUND LIKE THUNDER!"  
... OLD JUNGLE SAYING.**



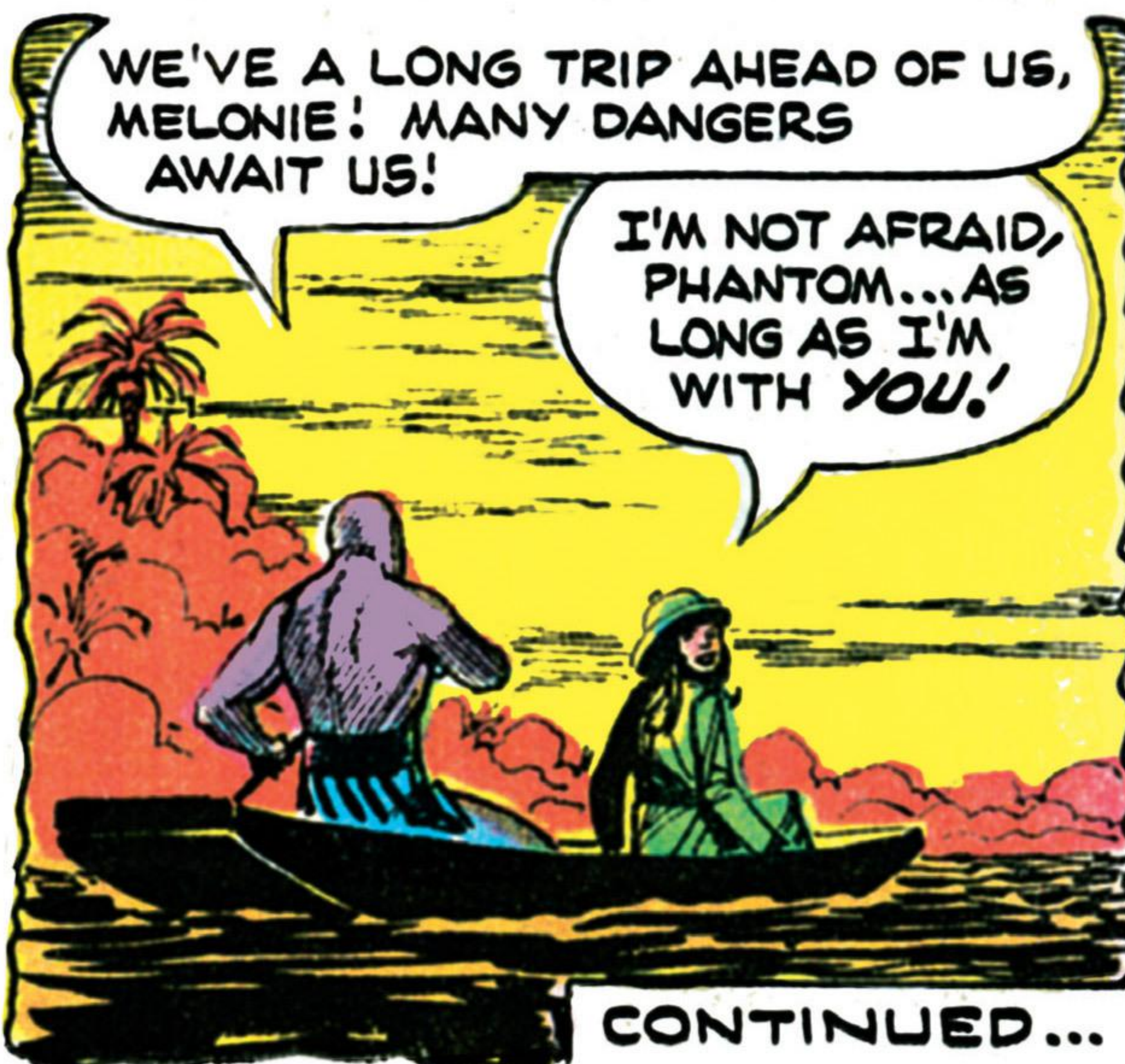
**PHANTOM... MY FATHER  
HAS TOLD ME MANY STORIES  
OF YOU! I—I DIDN'T  
BELIEVE YOU WERE *REAL*!**



**YES, I'M *REAL*, MELONIE!  
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO  
SEEING YOUR FATHER AGAIN!  
HE IS A GREAT MAN!**

**WE'VE A LONG TRIP AHEAD OF US,  
MELONIE! MANY DANGERS  
AWAIT US!**

**I'M NOT AFRAID,  
PHANTOM... AS  
LONG AS I'M  
WITH *YOU*!**



**CONTINUED...**



THE  
PHANTOM

THE STORY OF  
**HERO** PART  
TWO

# The LONG TRIP HOME

**A**FTER RESCUING THE PRINCESS  
MELONIE FROM SINKU OUTLAWS,  
THE PHANTOM HEADS THE CANOE  
TOWARD THE KINGDOM OF  
KABORA, AND HER FATHER, KING  
SUROBI. BUT, MANY DANGERS  
STILL LIE AHEAD!

GET DOWN,  
MELONIE!  
THEY MEAN  
**BUSINESS!**



Bill Dymally

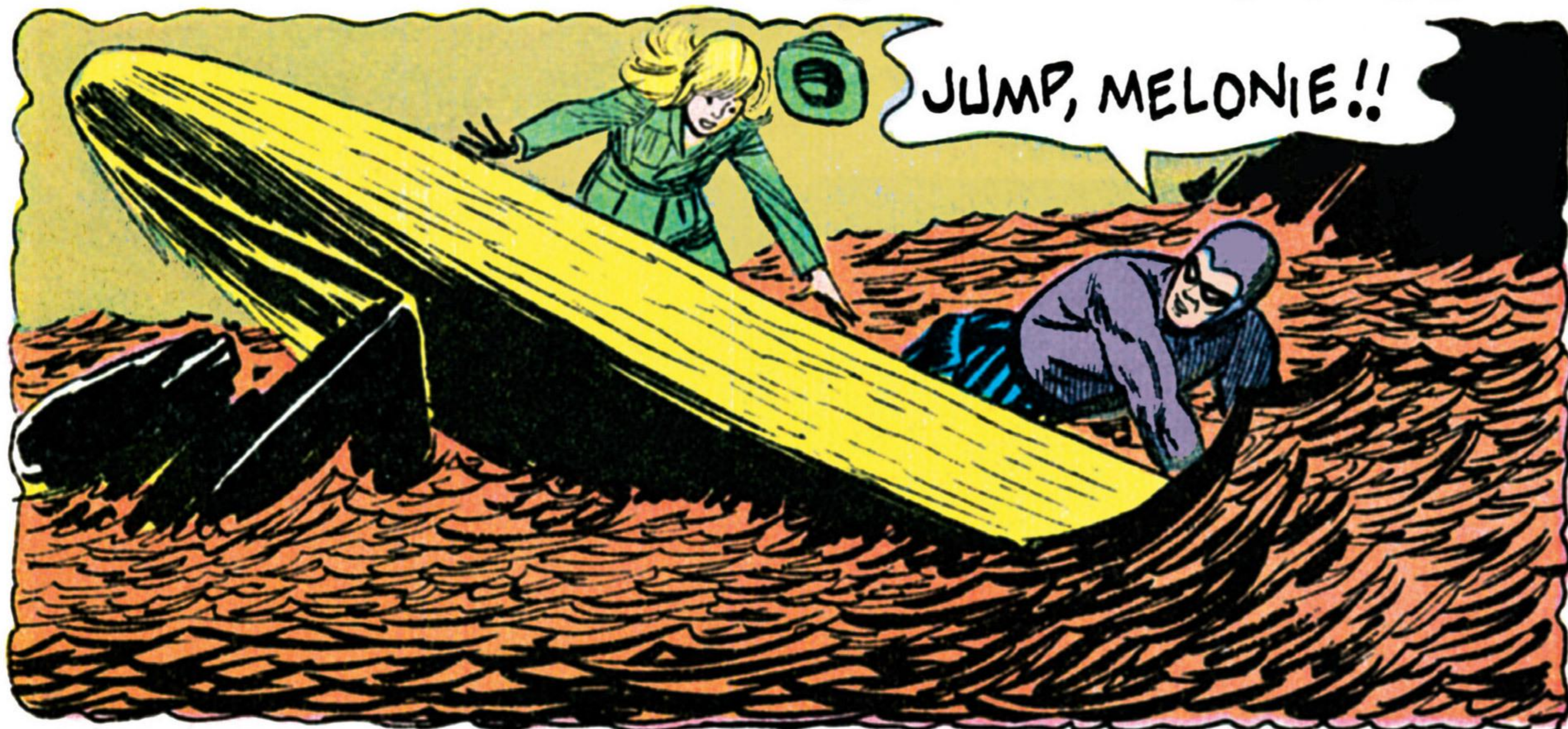




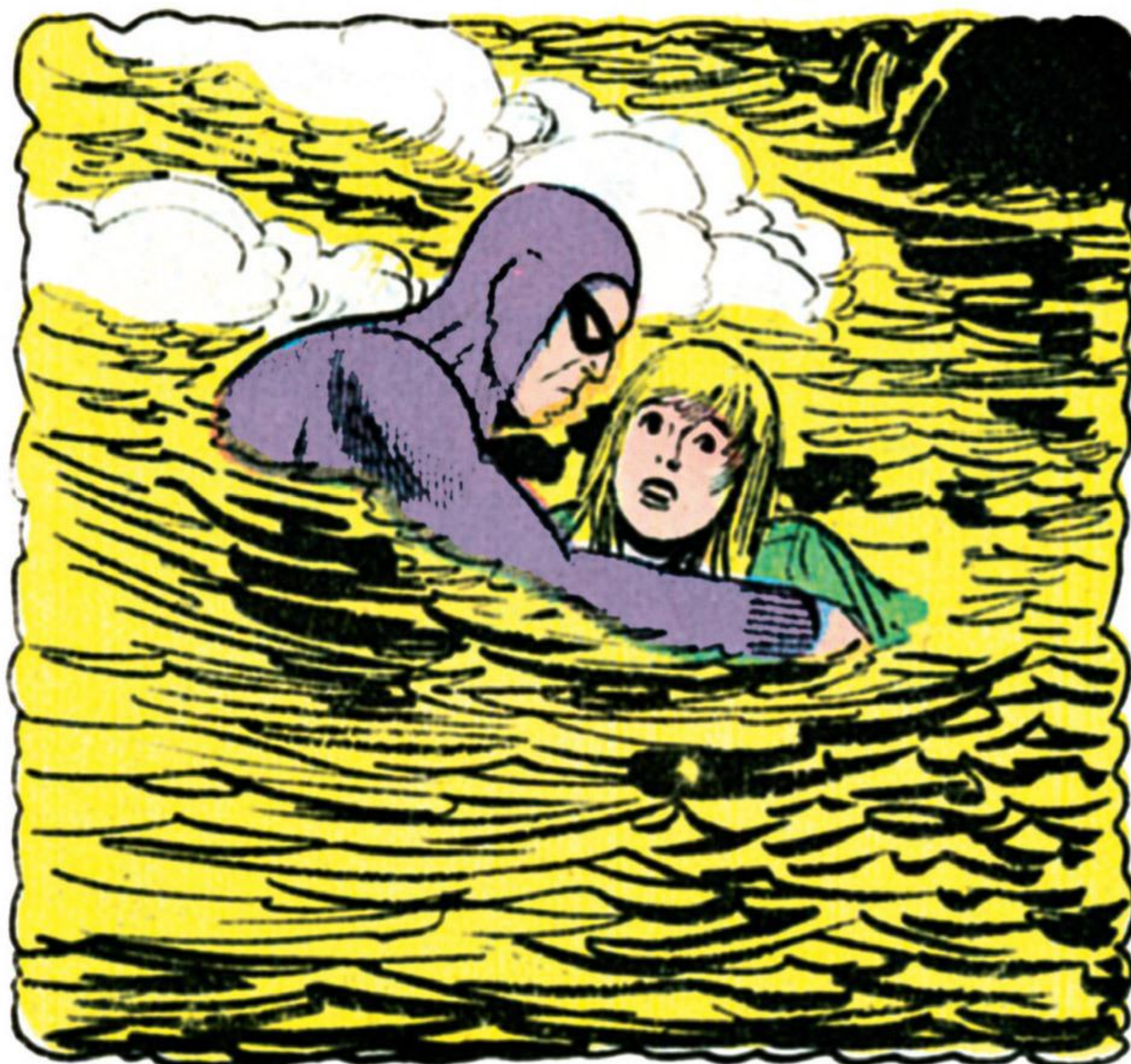
SOON YOU'LL HAVE A HAPPY  
REUNION WITH YOUR FATHER,  
MELONIE!



WE'RE RUNNING INTO  
**RAPIDS!** HANG ON  
TIGHT, MELONIE!



**JUMP, MELONIE!!**



LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO GO  
THE REST OF THE WAY ON FOOT!  
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



YES, I'M  
OKAY!



*WHILE MELONIE AND THE PHANTOM MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE JUNGLE...*



*...KING SUROBI IS ORDERING HIS SOLDIERS TO COMB THE TERRITORY FOR THE KIDNAPPERS!*



DON'T COME BACK UNTIL YOU'VE FOUND THEM! ...ALIVE OR DEAD!

YES, YOUR HIGHNESS!

*THE ARMY FANS OUT INTO THE JUNGLE... DETERMINED TO SEARCH EVERY SQUARE INCH OF IT...*



*THE NEXT DAY...*



THERE SHE IS!

GIVE ME THOSE GLASSES!



THAT MAN... HE MUST BE ONE OF THE KIDNAPPERS!





DOWN, MELONIE!

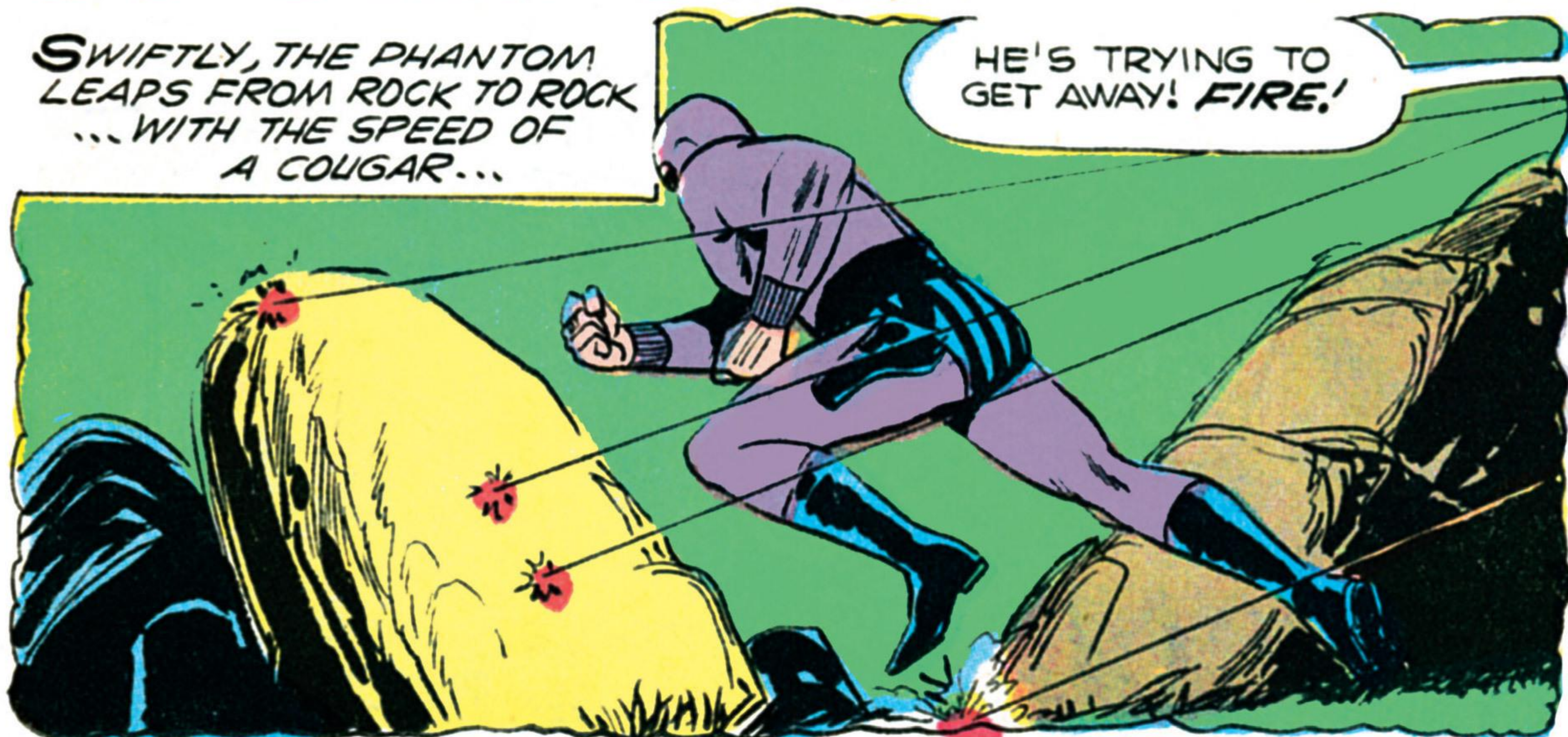


YOU *FOOL*! HOLD YOUR FIRE!  
YOU MIGHT HIT THE GIRL!



YOUR FATHER'S TROOPS! THEY  
THINK I'M ONE OF THE  
KIDNAPPERS! STAY LOW,  
MELONIE! I'LL DRAW THEIR  
FIRE AWAY FROM YOU!

*SWIFTLY, THE PHANTOM  
LEAPS FROM ROCK TO ROCK  
... WITH THE SPEED OF  
A COUGAR...*



HE'S TRYING TO  
GET AWAY! *FIRE!*



WITH KEEN JUNGLE INSTINCT,  
THE PHANTOM WORKS HIS WAY  
BEHIND THE SOLDIERS...







HE'S THE *PHANTOM*!  
HE SAVED MY LIFE!

THE PHANTOM? KING  
SUROBI'S *FRIEND*!

A DAY'S JOURNEY  
LATER, THEY REACH  
THE KINGDOM OF  
KABORA...

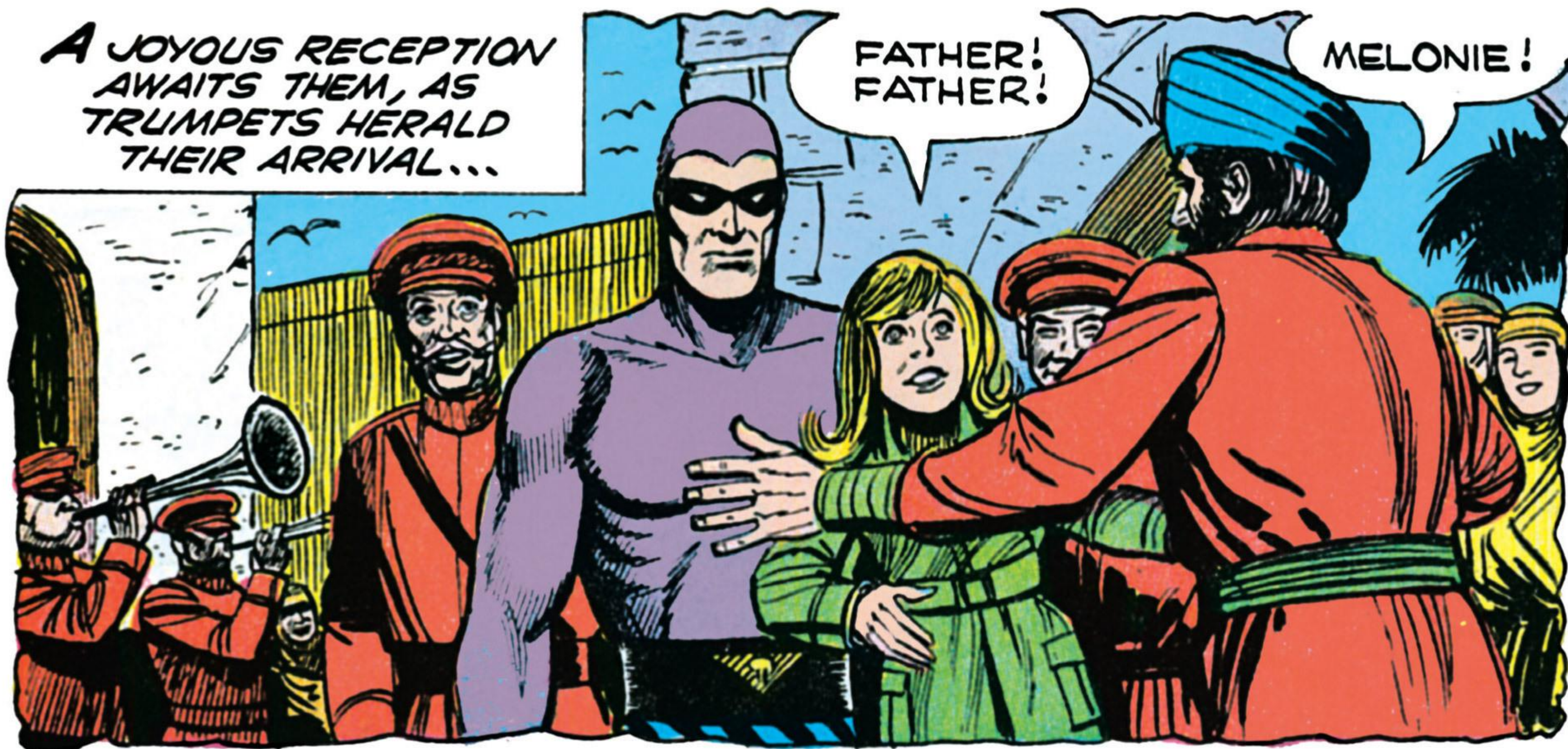
HOME AT LAST,  
MELONIE!

MY FATHER!  
HE MUST BE SO  
WORRIED!





A JOYOUS RECEPTION  
AWAITS THEM, AS  
TRUMPETS HERALD  
THEIR ARRIVAL...



FATHER!  
FATHER!

MELONIE!

THE PHANTOM! MY FRIEND!  
ONCE YOU SAVED *MY* LIFE! NOW,  
YOU HAVE SAVED MY DAUGHTER!  
I MUST REWARD YOU! *ANY-  
THING* I HAVE IS YOURS!



MY REWARD IS THE  
HAPPINESS I SEE IN  
YOUR FACE, KING  
SUROBI!

BUT YOU MUST  
ACCEPT *SOME*  
GIFT!

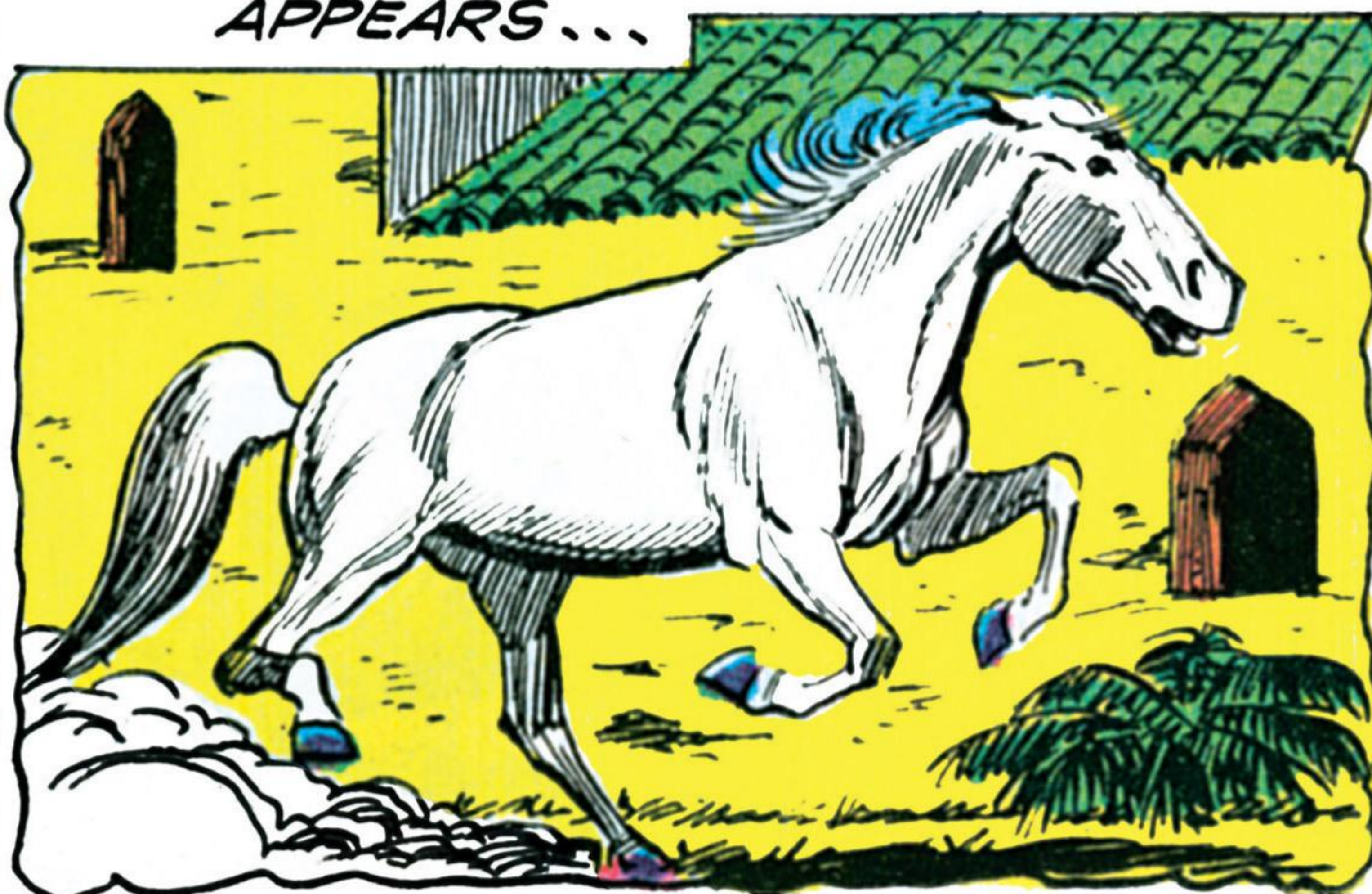
AAAHHHEEE!



A JACKAL! IT'S  
ATTACKING ONE OF  
THE GUARDS!

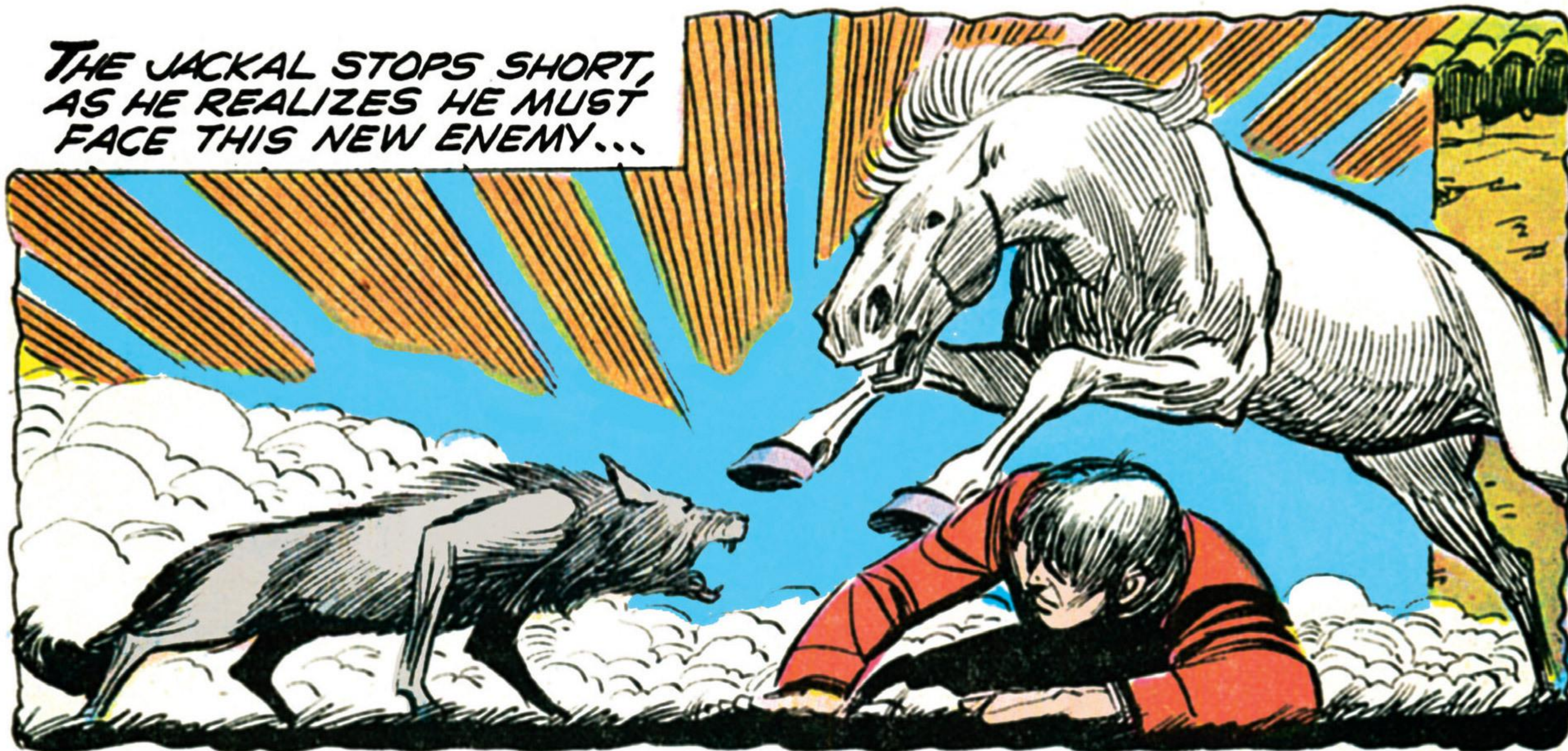


SUDDENLY, AS IF FROM OUT OF THE  
AIR... A MAJESTIC WHITE HORSE  
APPEARS...

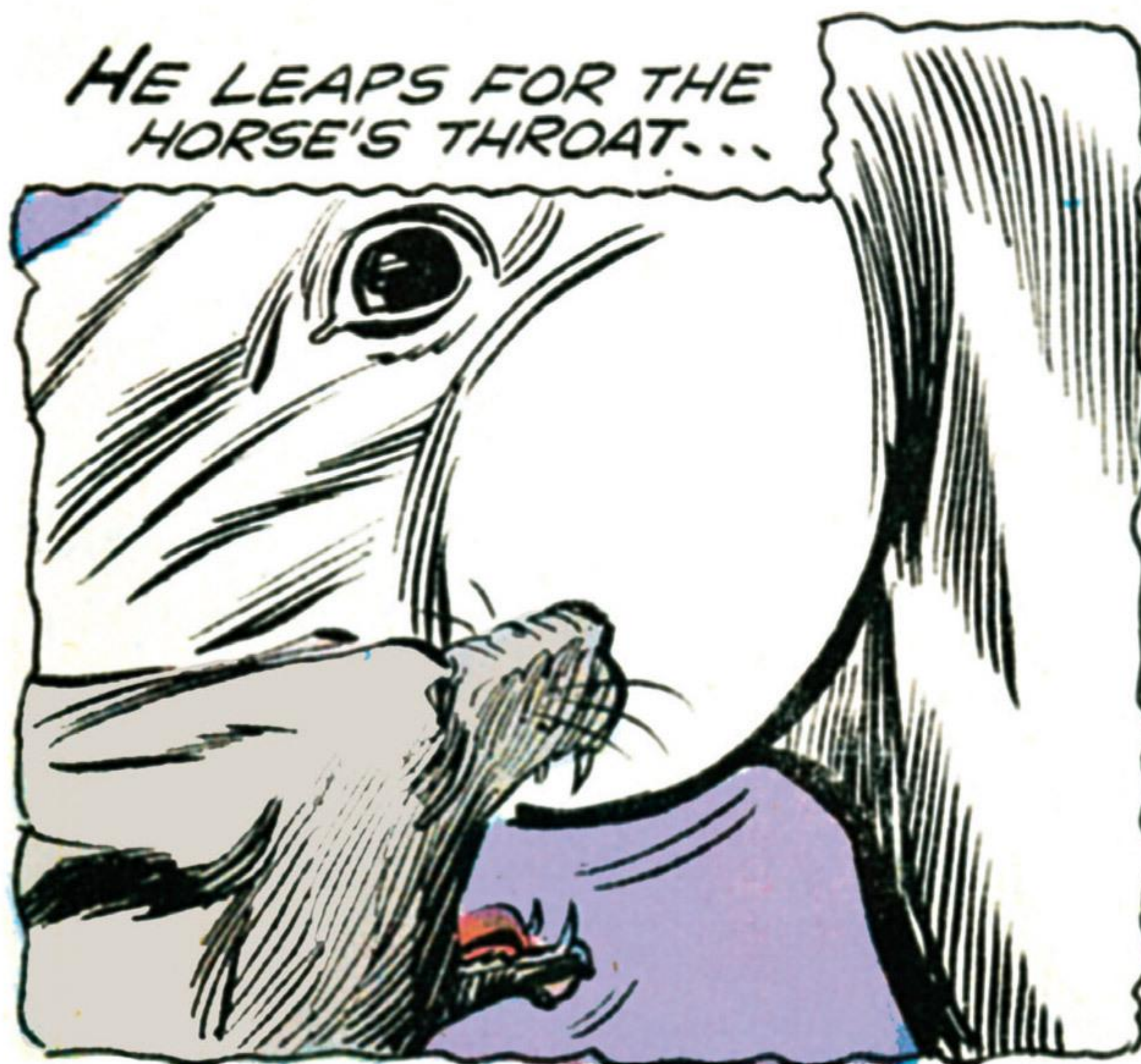




**THE JACKAL STOPS SHORT,  
AS HE REALIZES HE MUST  
FACE THIS NEW ENEMY...**



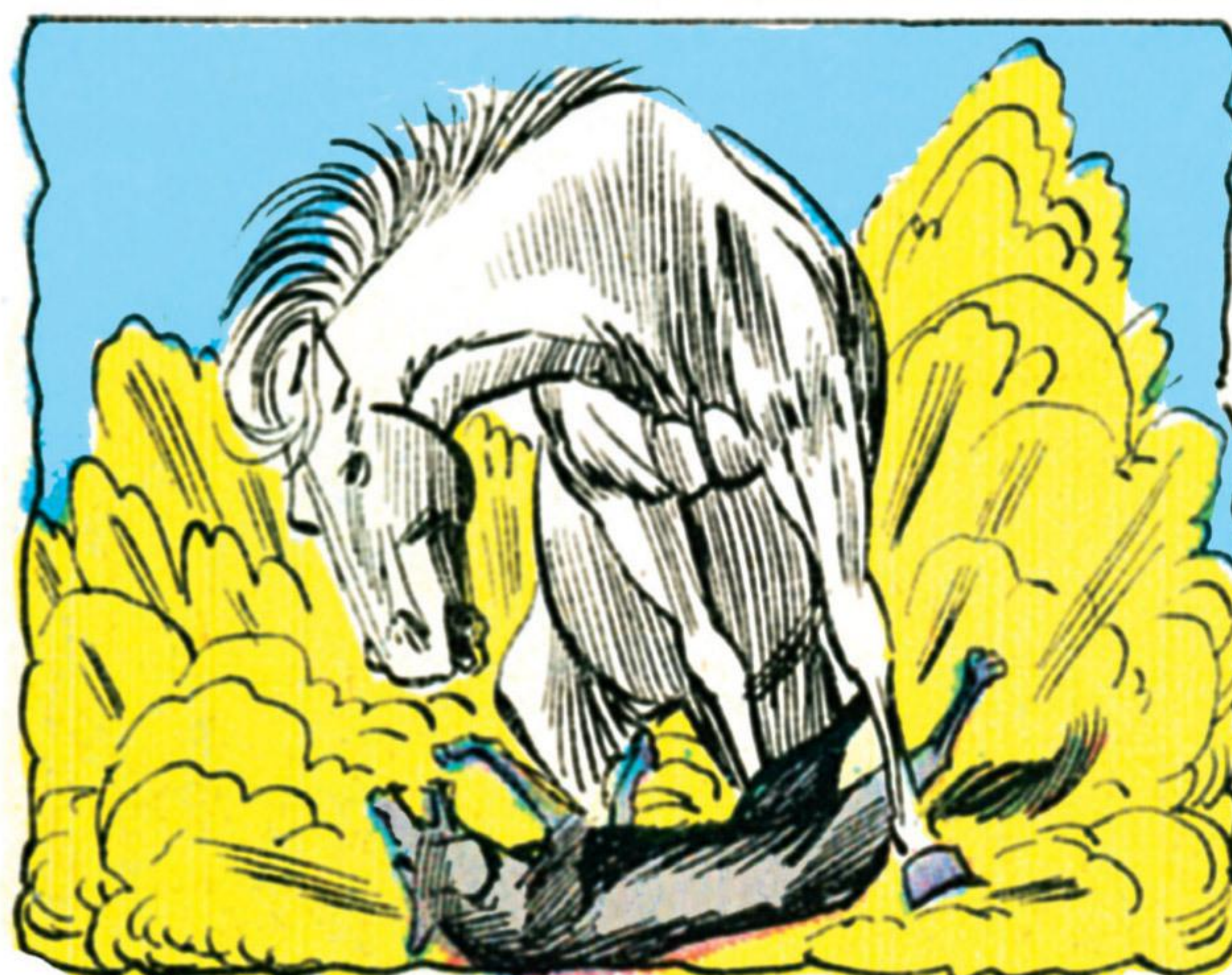
**HE LEAPS FOR THE  
HORSE'S THROAT...**



**... BUT, TOO LATE!**



**THE JACKAL IS NO MATCH FOR  
THE POWERFUL WHITE HORSE!**



**AFTER THE BATTLE IS WON,  
THE WHITE HORSE GENTLY  
NUDGES THE GUARD TO SEE  
IF HE'S UNHURT!**





THAT HORSE!  
I'VE NEVER  
SEEN ANY-  
THING LIKE  
HIM!

HE IS MY PRIZED  
POSSESSION! THE  
FINEST HORSE OF  
THE CENTURY!  
HE SHOULD BELONG  
TO A MAN LIKE YOU,  
PHANTOM! TAKE  
HIM, HE'S YOURS!  
IT'S THE **LEAST**  
I CAN DO!



THEN SOMETHING STRANGE  
HAPPENS... THE WHITE HORSE  
COMES TO THE PHANTOM AS IF  
FATE HAD BROUGHT THEM  
TOGETHER...



I DON'T THINK HE'LL LET  
YOU LEAVE *WITHOUT* HIM!  
HE SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN  
A FANCY TO YOU!

HIS NAME WILL BE **HERO**!  
HE EARNED IT TODAY!  
THANK YOU, KING SUROBI!  
I HOPE, SOON, WE  
SHALL MEET AGAIN!



HAIL THE PHANTOM! HAIL  
**HERO**!



AND SO, DIANA... THAT IS HOW  
I FOUND **HERO**! HE'S BEEN MY  
FRIEND, AND COMPANION EVER  
SINCE! I DON'T KNOW WHAT  
I'D DO WITHOUT HIM!

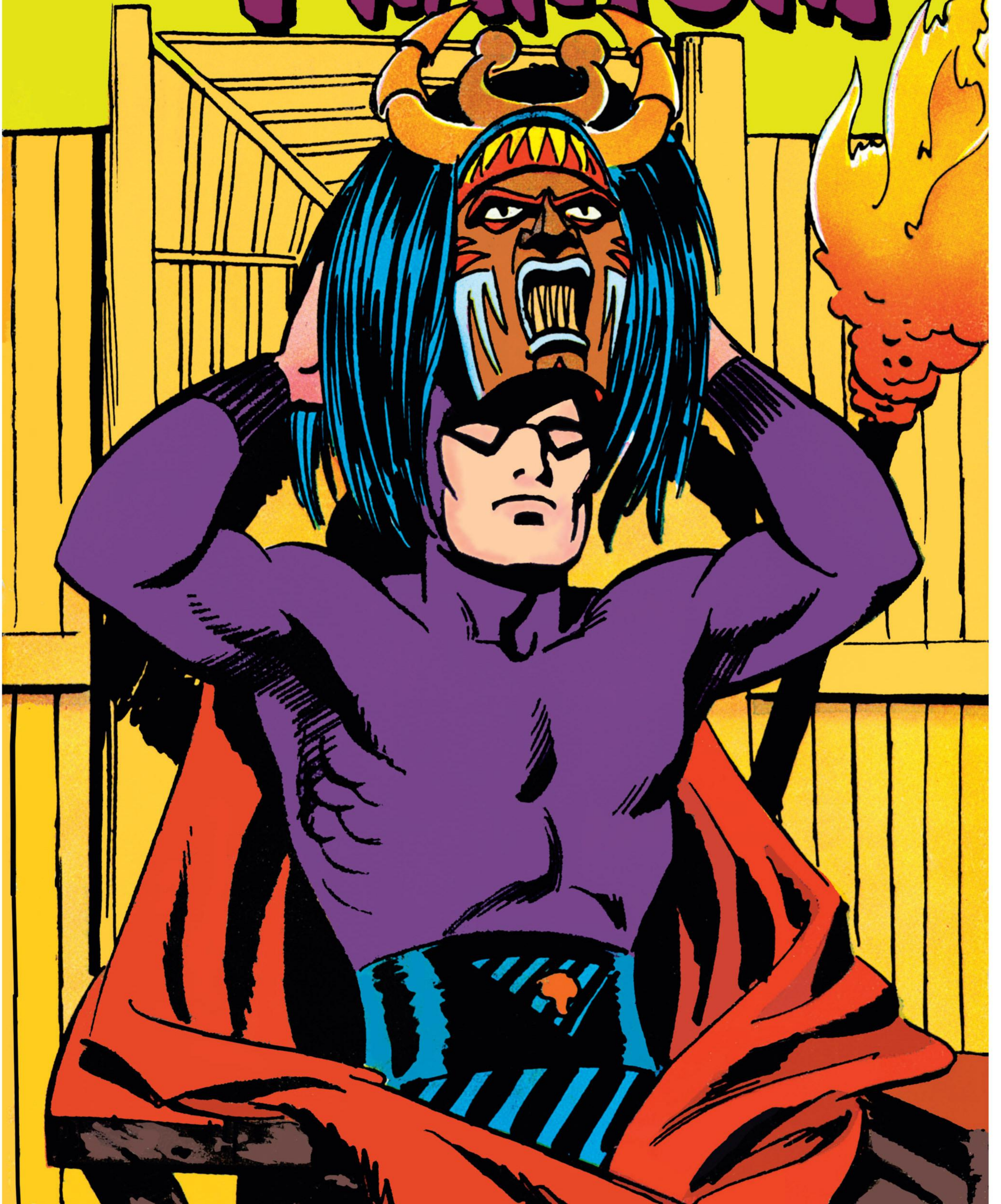








# THE PHANTOM





THE  
PHANTOM

# DIANA'S DEADLY TOUR



HOLD YOUR FIRE!  
THE BOMB HAS  
DONE THE TRICK...  
THAT EXPLOSION  
WOULD KILL AN  
*ELEPHANT!*

*IT WAS TO BE A WORLD-WIDE ATHLETIC EXHIBITION — AND THE FAMOUS DIANA PALMER WAS TO MAKE THE TOUR FOR CHARITY. BUT ENEMY AGENTS HAD OTHER IDEAS IN MIND FOR THE WEALTHY BEAUTY WHO HAD LONG SOUGHT TO WIN THE PHANTOM'S HEART... AND BEFORE DIANA'S TOUR WAS FINISHED, THE GHOST WHO WALKS HIMSELF WAS MARKED FOR MURDER!*

PH-PHANTOM!



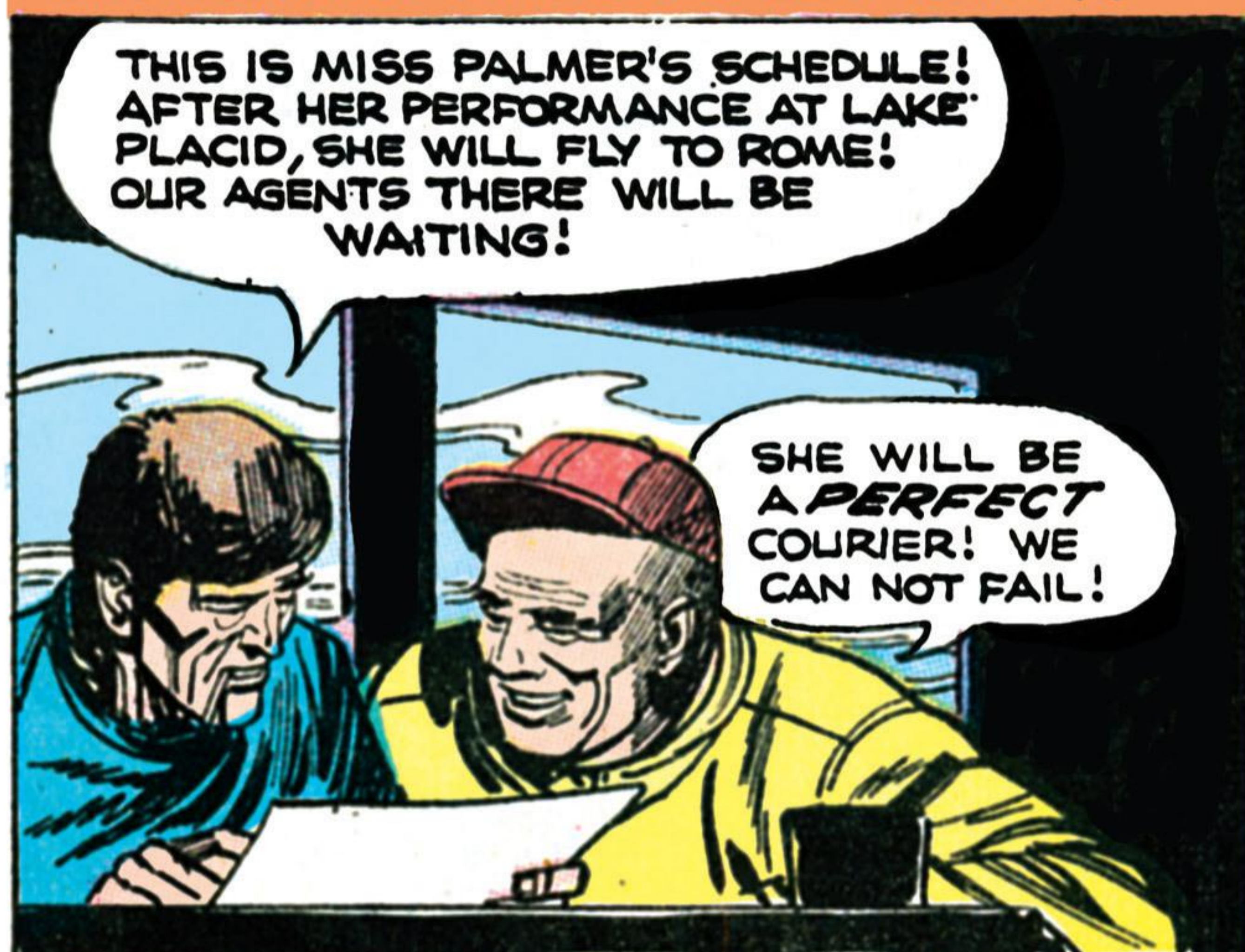
**IN NEW YORK CITY, A PRESS CONFERENCE IS HELD BY DIANA PALMER, THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS GIRL ATHLETE . . .**



IT'S SOMETHING I'VE WANTED TO DO ALL MY LIFE! I'LL TRAVEL TO ITALY, FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND . . . AS FOR THE PHANTOM—WELL, GENTLEMEN, I **HOPES** I WILL SEE HIM ENROUTE!



**AT THIS PRECISE MOMENT, ON A RESORT TRAIN HEADING FOR UPSTATE NEW YORK . . .**



**BUT THE PHANTOM HAS MANY FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD . . .**



**AT THE NEXT STOP . . .**





**THE NEWS TRAVELS QUICKLY...  
ACROSS THE SEAS BY RADIO...TO A  
BENGALI VILLAGE BY TELEGRAPH...  
AND THROUGH JUNGLE TRAILS BY THE  
FAMOUS MONKEY MAIL...**

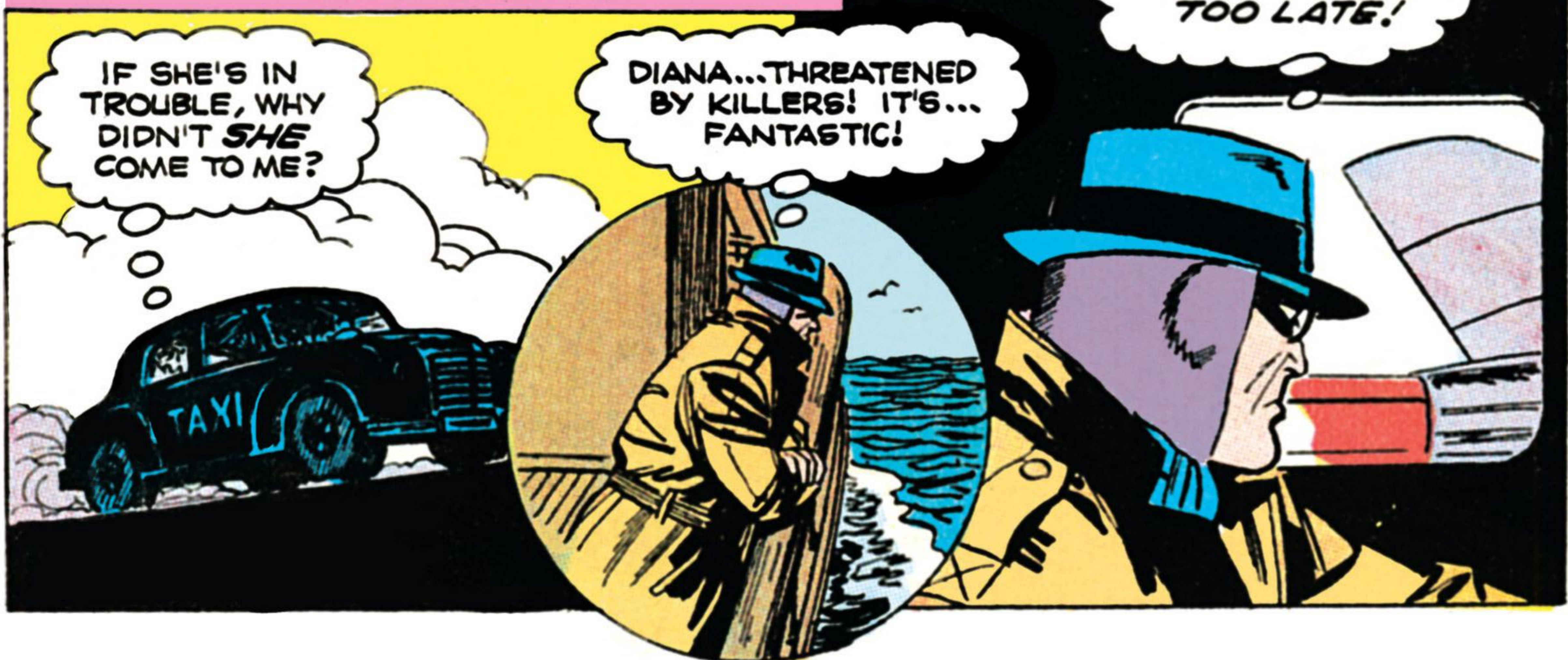


**FINALLY, IT REACHES THE DEEP WOODS...  
HOME OF THE PHANTOM...**





MOVING SWIFTLY, THE GHOST WHO WALKS  
HEADS TOWARD THE UNITED STATES AND THE  
LOVELY DIANA...



SOON AFTER, AT LAKE PLACID...





MEANWHILE, IN DIANA'S  
DRESSING ROOM...



HURRY— HIDE THE  
MICROFILM IN THE  
RUBBER RUNNER  
GUARD THAT  
PROTECTS HER  
EXTRA SKATES!

FIRST PHASE COMPLETE!  
THE FAMOUS DIANA PALMER  
WILL NOW WORK FOR *US*!  
HA! HA! LET'S GET OUT  
OF HERE!

BUT THEN...



I MUSTN'T FRIGHTEN  
DIANA BY EXPLAINING  
SHE'S IN DANGER...  
I'LL JUST...

WHA...? THOSE  
TWO CHARACTERS  
JUST CAME OUT OF  
HER DRESSING  
ROOM...



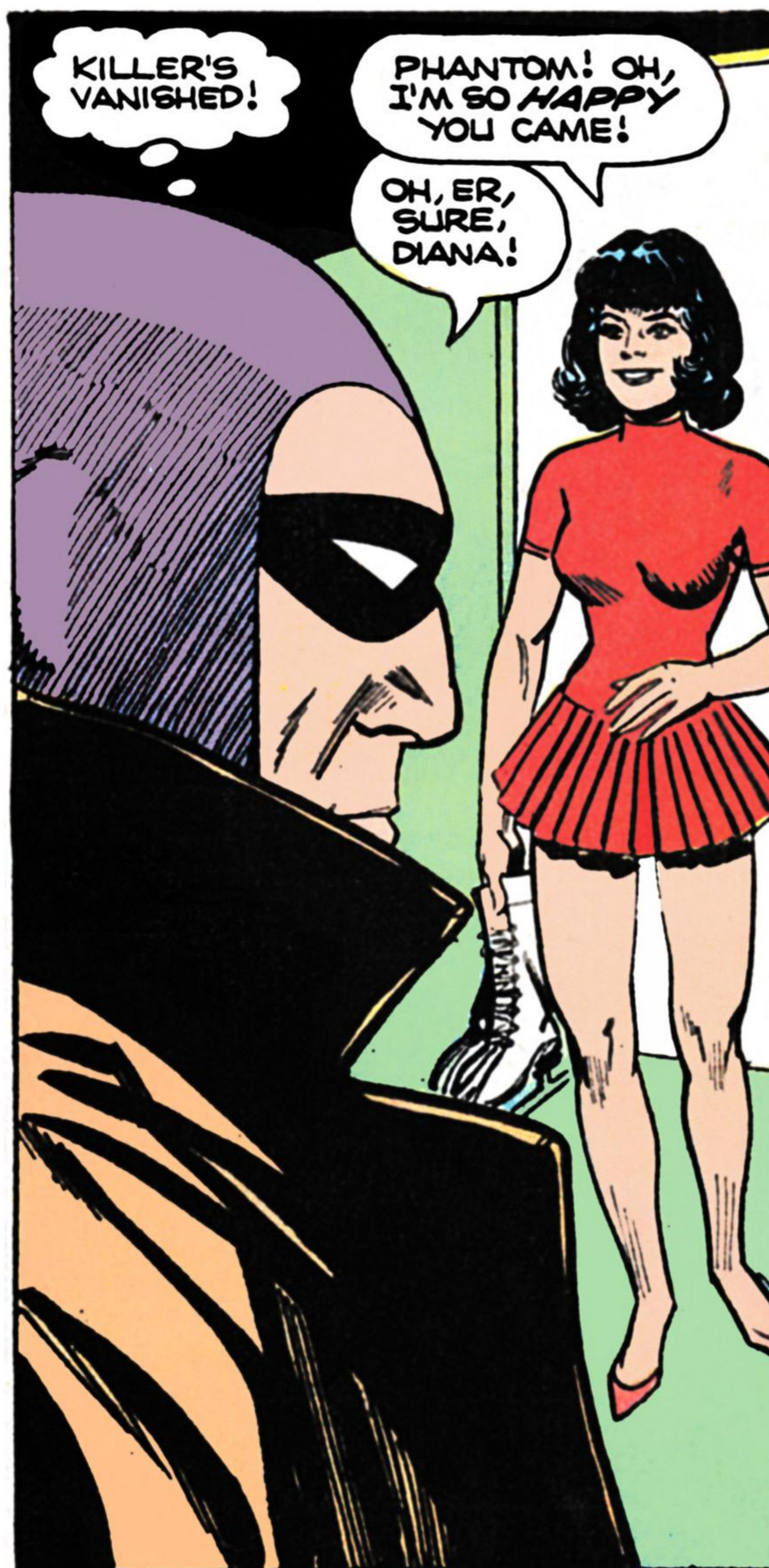
IT'S TH-THE  
PHANTOM!!



ALL RIGHT, YOU BABOONS...  
JUST WHAT'S THE CONNECTION  
BETWEEN YOU AND  
DIANA PALMER?

H-HOLD HIM OFF!  
I-I'LL GET HELP!







*NEXT DAY, A HAPPY DIANA SITS BESIDE THE PHANTOM ON THE PLANE TO PARIS...*





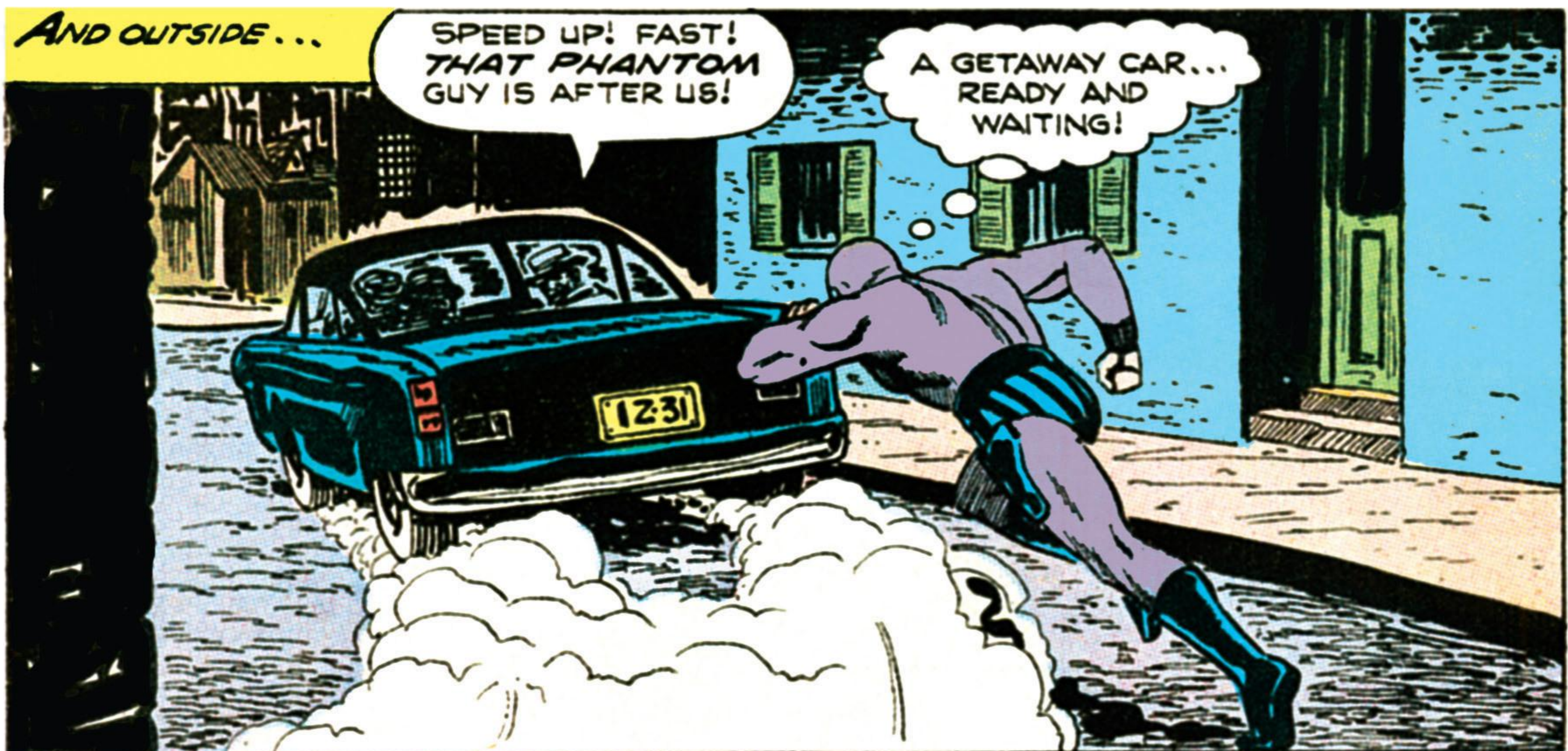
**SUDDENLY, AS DIANA HEADS DOWN THE CORRIDOR TO HER DRESSING ROOM...**



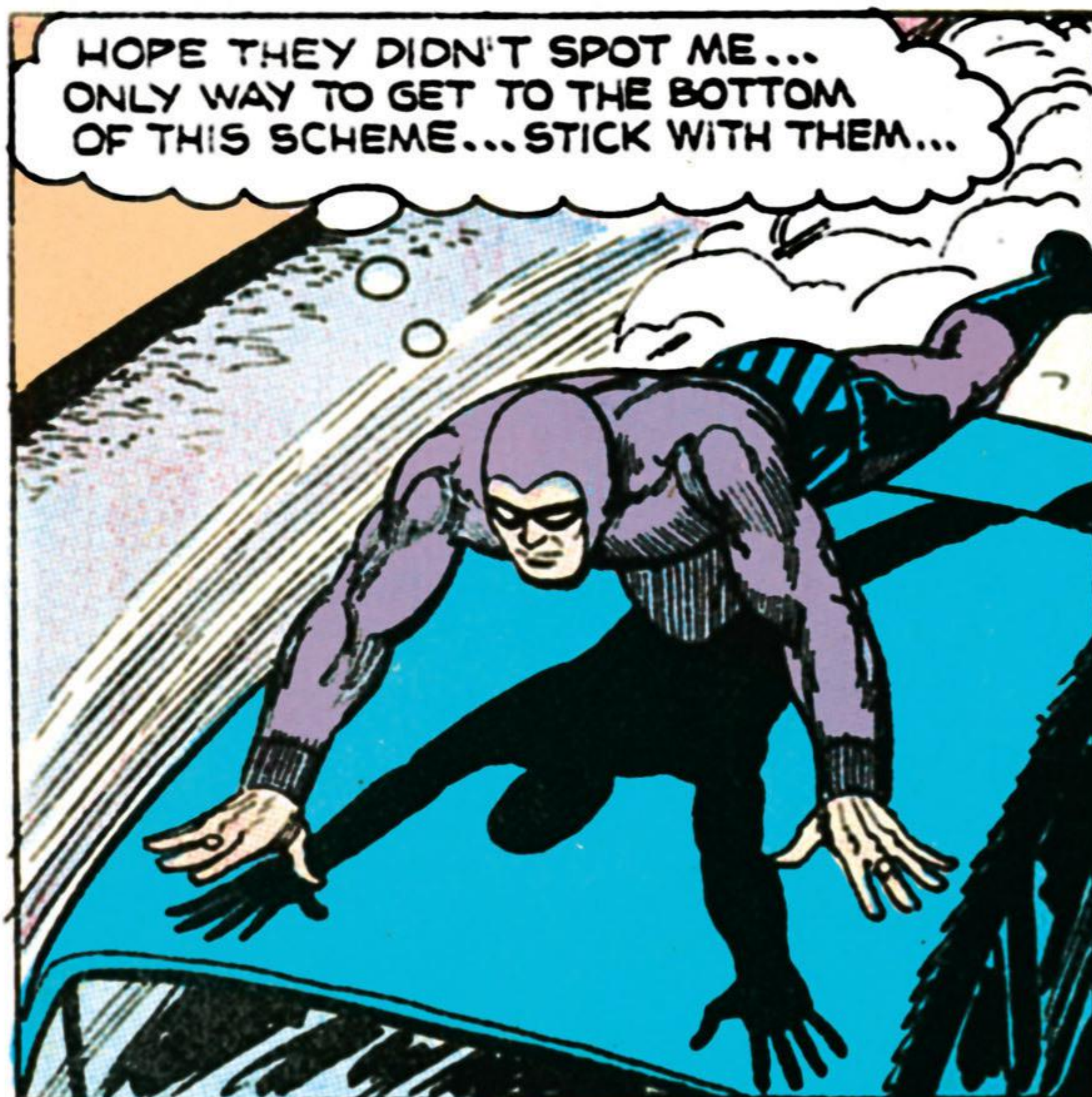
**GO INSIDE AND SHUT THE DOOR! HURRY, DIANA! DO AS I SAY!**



**AND OUTSIDE...**



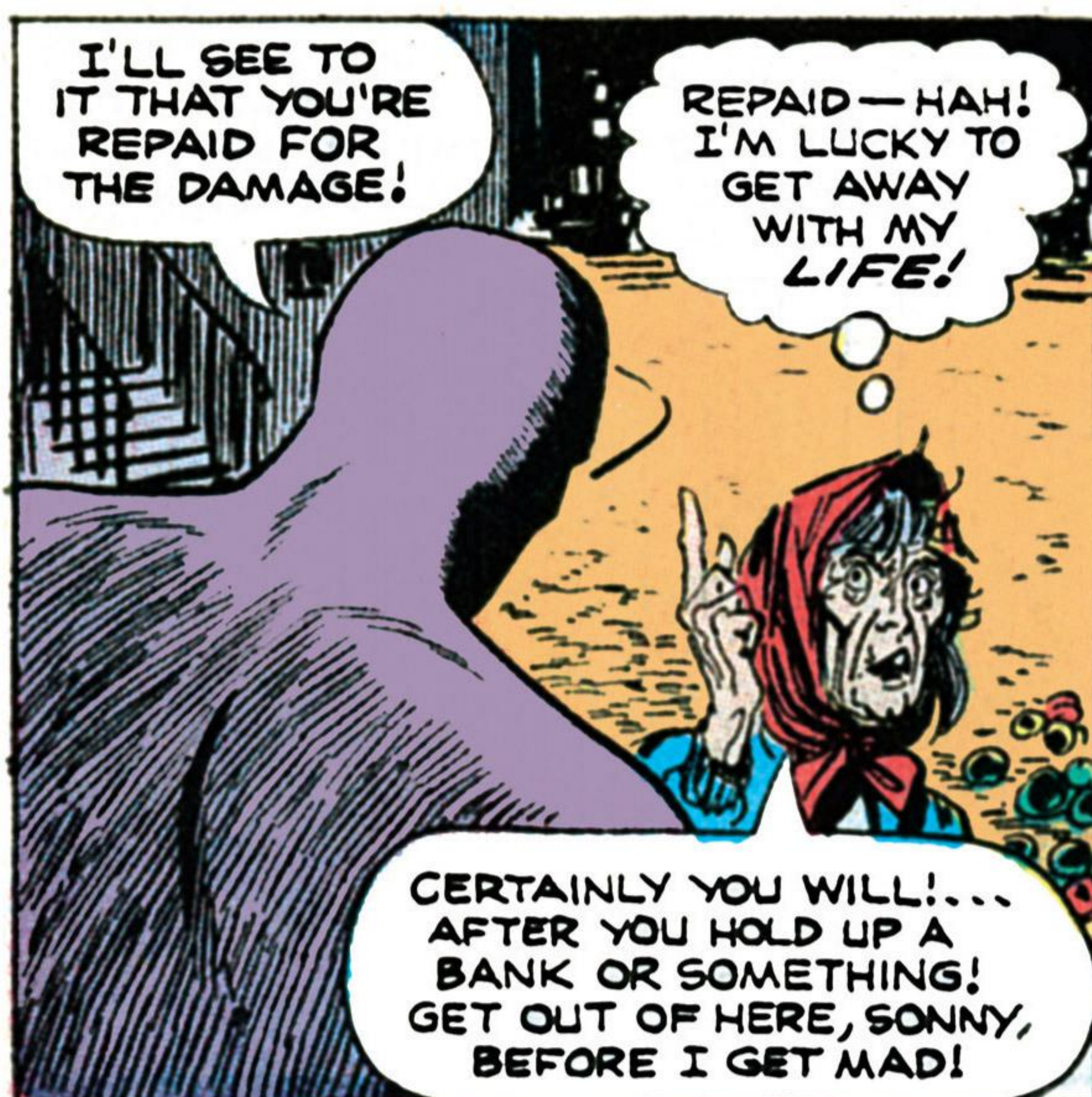
**HOPE THEY DIDN'T SPOT ME... ONLY WAY TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS SCHEME... STICK WITH THEM...**



**BUT THE PHANTOM'S HOPES ARE SOON DASHED AS...**

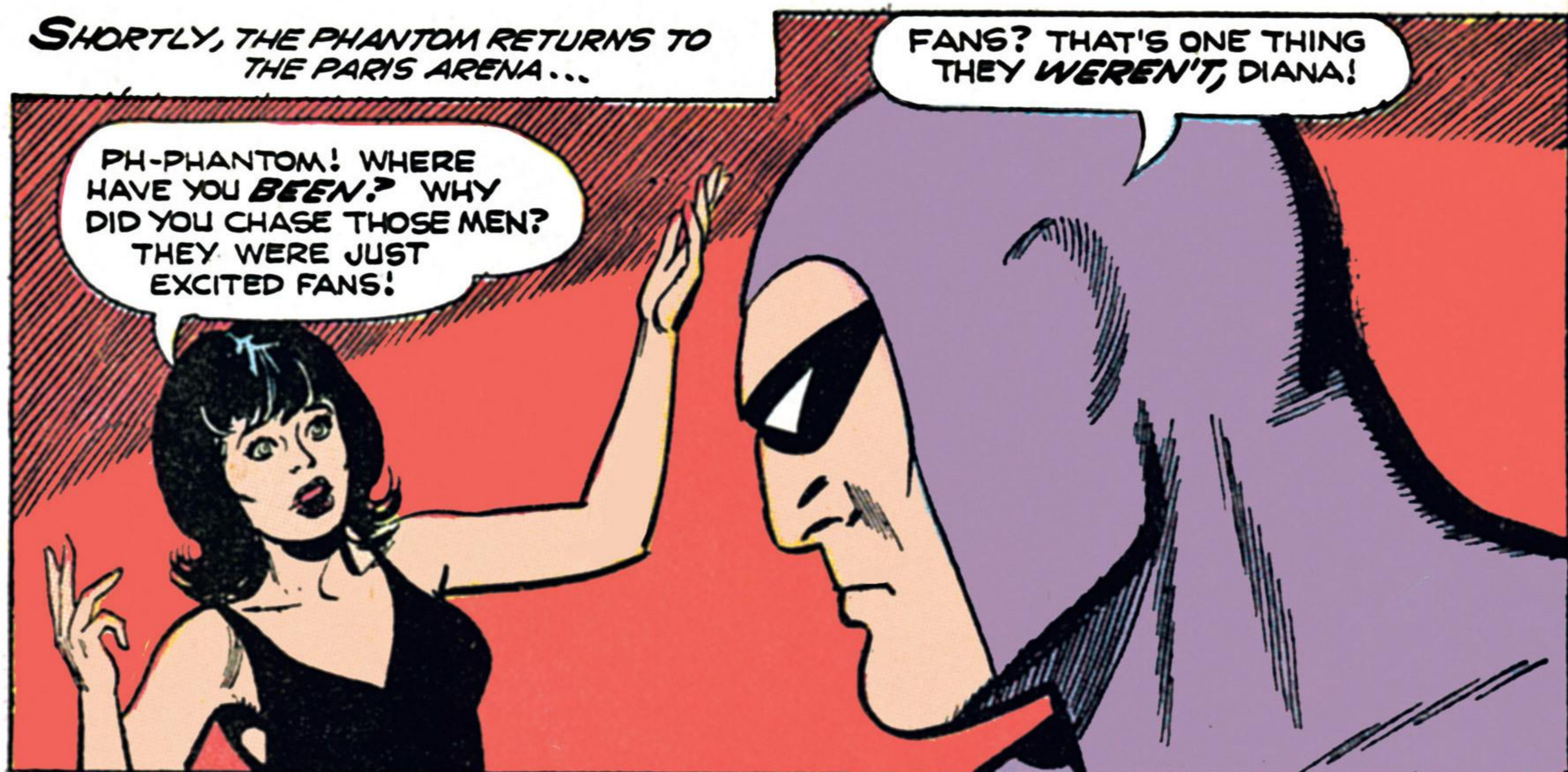








SHORTLY, THE PHANTOM RETURNS TO THE PARIS ARENA...



PH-PHANTOM! WHERE HAVE YOU *BEEN*? WHY DID YOU CHASE THOSE MEN? THEY WERE JUST EXCITED FANS!

FANS? THAT'S ONE THING THEY *WEREN'T*, DIANA!



OF COURSE THEY WERE, DEAR! WHY, THEY JUST WANTED TO STEAL MY BATHING CAP AS A SOUVENIR! THINGS LIKE THAT HAPPEN ALL THE TIME!

**BATHING CAP? SOUVENIR?**  
DIANA...IT'S TIME I TOLD YOU SOMETHING!



NOW LISTEN CLOSELY, DIANA! YOUR LIFE *IS* IN DANGER! YOU MUST WATCH YOURSELF EVERY MOMENT! NOW, TELL ME, WHERE IS YOUR NEXT STOP?

CONTINA, ITALY...  
F-FOR A SKIING EXHIBITION!

NEXT MORNING, AS DIANA AND THE PHANTOM EMBARK FOR ITALY...



YOU WILL CALL OUR PEOPLE IN ITALY! INFORM THEM THAT AT ALL COSTS THE PHANTOM MUST BE ELIMINATED! HE IS THE *ONE* COG THAT CAN FOUL UP OUR OPERATION!



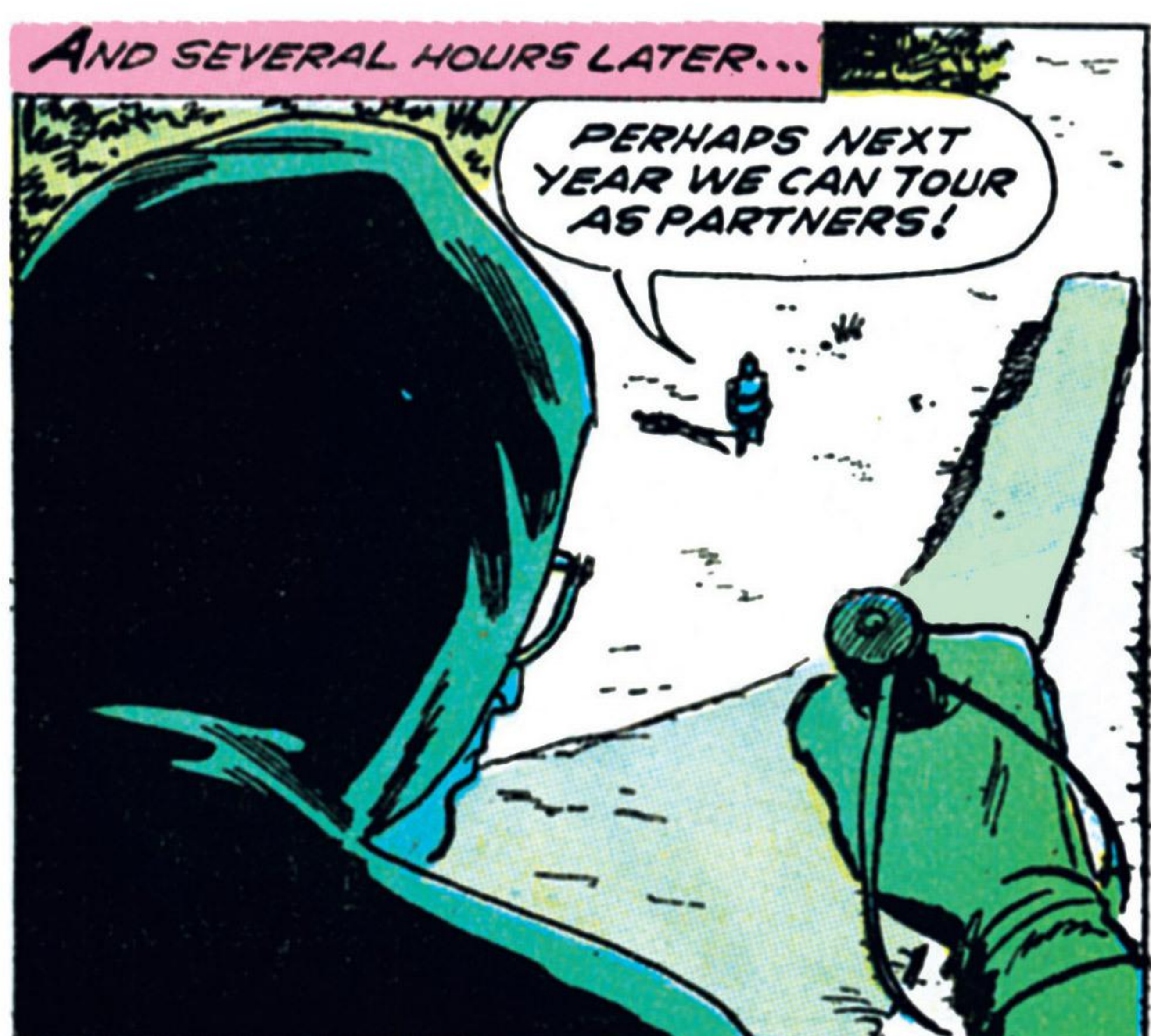
THE FOLLOWING DAY, ON THE SLOPES OF THE FAMOUS SKI RESORT AFTER DIANA HAS PERFORMED...



WHILE NEARBY...



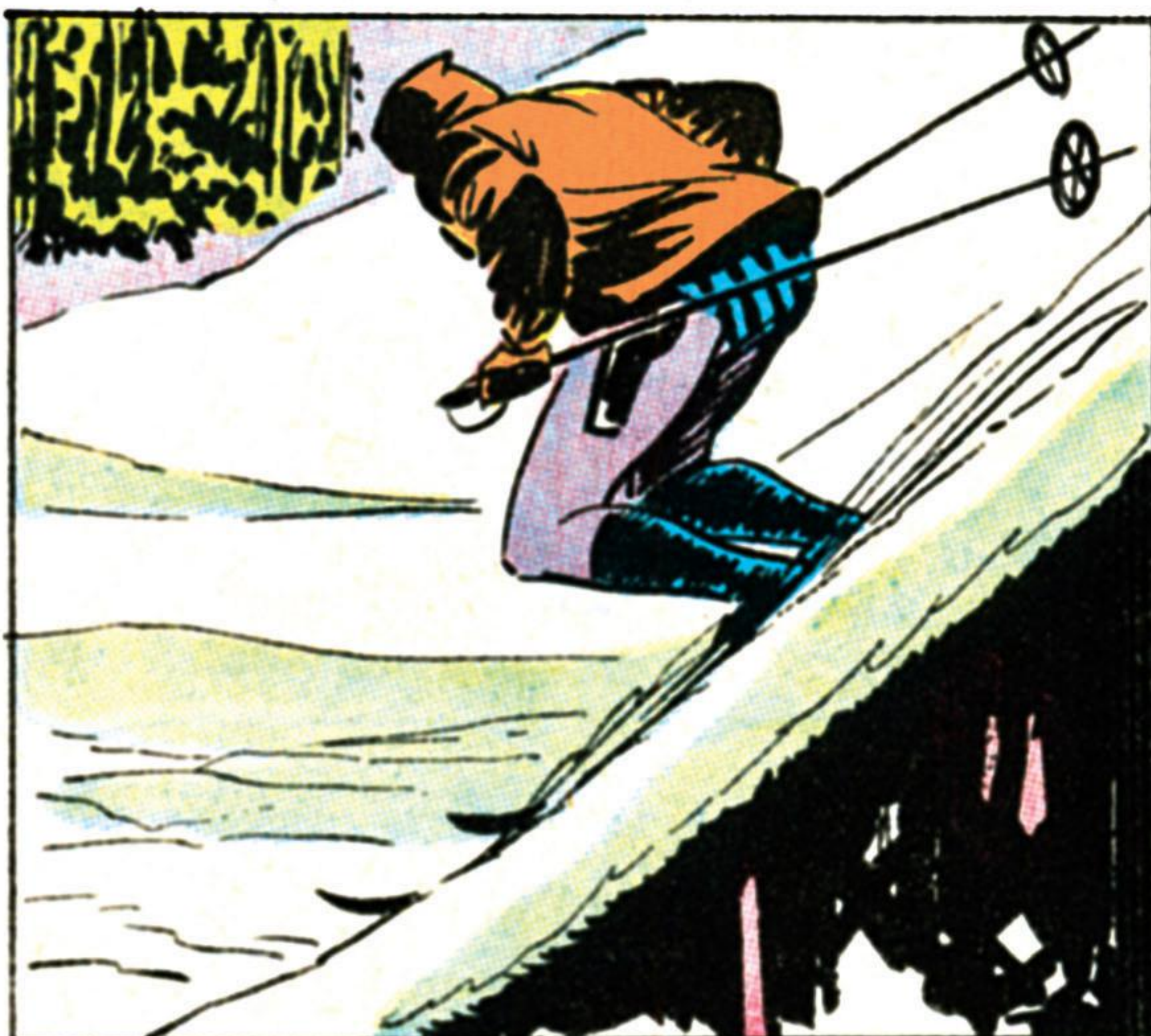
LATER...







*DOWN...DOWN THE PHANTOM PLUNGES TOWARD HIDDEN DEATH...*



*SUDDENLY, THE CENTER OF THE SLOPE ERUPTS AND...*



*THE PHANTOM'S BODY PLUMMETS DOWNWARD...INTO A CLUMP OF TREES...*



*BUT WHEN DIANA REACHES THE SCENE...*





**IN HER LODGE THAT NIGHT, DIANA SOBS OUT HER HEART...**



I-IT'S ALL MY FAULT... HE DIED PROTECTING *ME*!

WELL, I'M THROUGH... FINISHED! I WON'T GO ON! THE TOUR IS FINISHED! I'LL *NEVER* PERFORM AGAIN!



**SUDDENLY, A VOICE SEEMS TO SOUND IN DIANA'S EARS...**



YOU MUST... GO ON... DIANA... I WANT YOU TO...

THE PHANTOM!

YOU MUST... CONTINUE TO HELP THE POOR OF THE WORLD... IN MY NAME... PLEASE... DIANA...



I-IS IT MY MIND... MY IMAGINATION... OR IS HE *REALLY* SPEAKING TO ME? OH, PHANTOM... DEAR PHANTOM!

YES... YES, OF COURSE, I MUST GO ON FOR HIM! HE WOULD WANT IT THAT WAY!



**TWO DAYS LATER... SWITZERLAND...**

OUR MISSION IS ALMOST COMPLETE! WHEN SHE HAS FINISHED WE WILL COLLECT THE VITAL MICROFILMS... AND *DESTROY HER*!





LATER, WHEN DIANA HAS COMPLETED  
HER PERFORMANCE...



BUT BEFORE THE GIRL  
REACHES THE ROOM...



A BLUR OF COLOR FLASHES BEFORE  
THE WOULD-BE KILLERS' EYES AND...



WHEN DIANA ARRIVES, SHE GETS THE  
SURPRISE OF HER LIFE...





**THE GHOST WHO WALKS  
CRACKS THE POLE...**

JUST AS I THOUGHT... WHEN YOU MENTIONED YOUR STOLEN BATHING CAP, AND I SAW THEM CARRYING OFF THIS SKI-POLE... MICROFILM!

MICROFILM! B-BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND, PHANTOM! I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING! YOU... ALIVE... THIS THREAT TO MY LIFE!

DIANA... I HAD TO FACE DEATH TO TRAP THESE CHARACTERS AND LEARN WHAT WAS UP! YOU'VE BEEN USED AS A COURIER TO SMUGGLE VITAL SECRETS OF SOME SORT, DIANA...

AT EACH ONE OF YOUR PERFORMANCES, PIECES OF THE MICROFILM WERE PLACED IN YOUR GEAR FOR YOU TO CARRY ACROSS THE NEXT BORDER!

THE CONTENTS OF THIS FILM WILL TELL THE WHOLE STORY, HONEY!

**AND LATER...**

**SACRE BLEU!** BLUEPRINTS OF A TOP-SECRET SUPERSONIC BOMBER! ZE AGENTS IN EACH NATION HAD A SECTION OF IT!

YES... AND WHEN JOINED TOGETHER AND CARRIED TO GENEVA BY DIANA THEY FORMED THE **COMPLETE** BLUEPRINT!

PHANTOM... I-I THOUGHT YOU CAME WITH ME ON THE TOUR FOR ANOTHER REASON!

**ANOTHER REASON?**

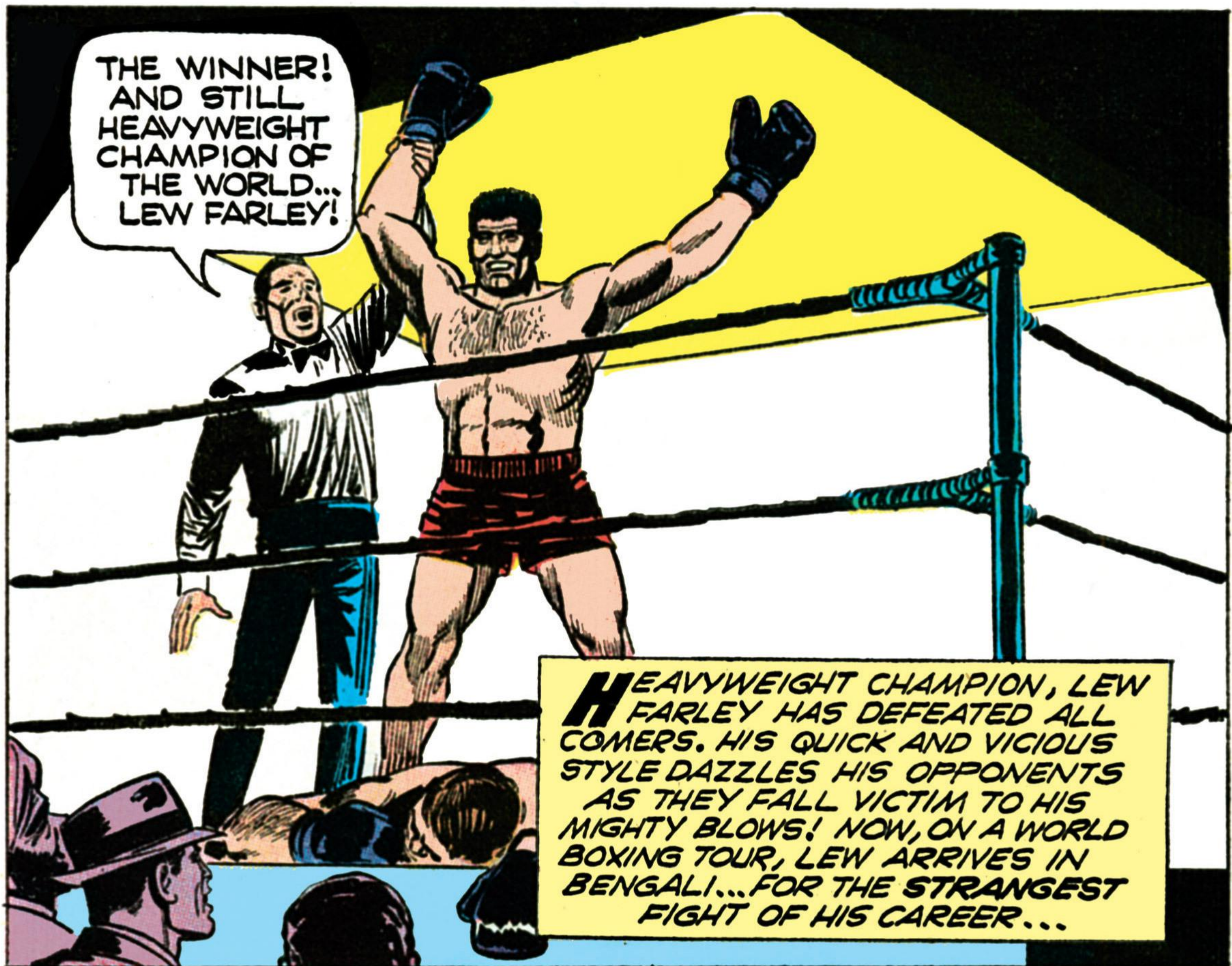
OH, NEVER MIND... IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER!

A GIRL CAN'T HAVE EVERYTHING! WHAT MORE CAN SHE ASK THAT THE PHANTOM SAVE HER LIFE... AND, ONE DAY SHE MAY **STILL** WIN HIS LOVE!

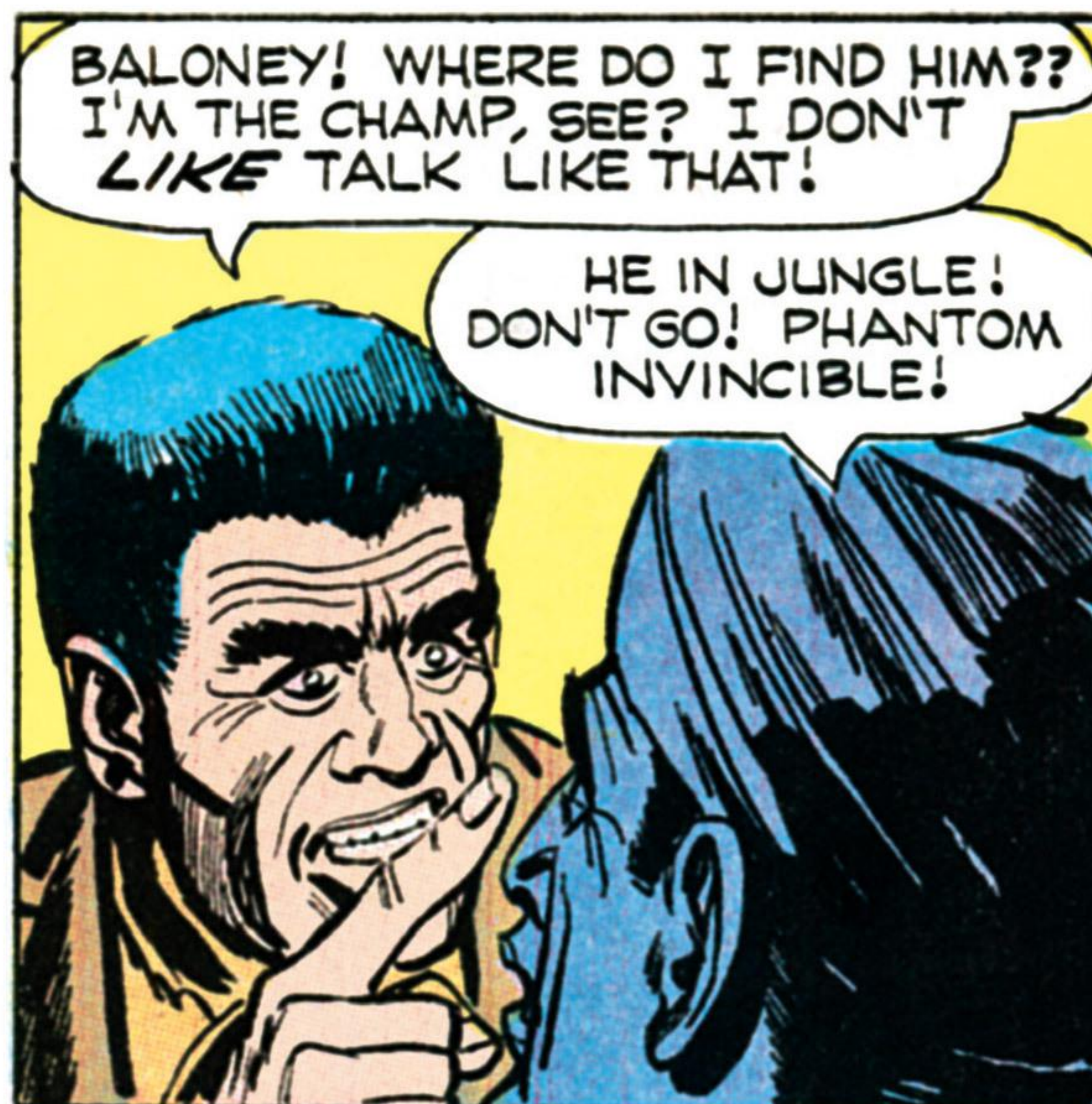


# THE PHANTOM

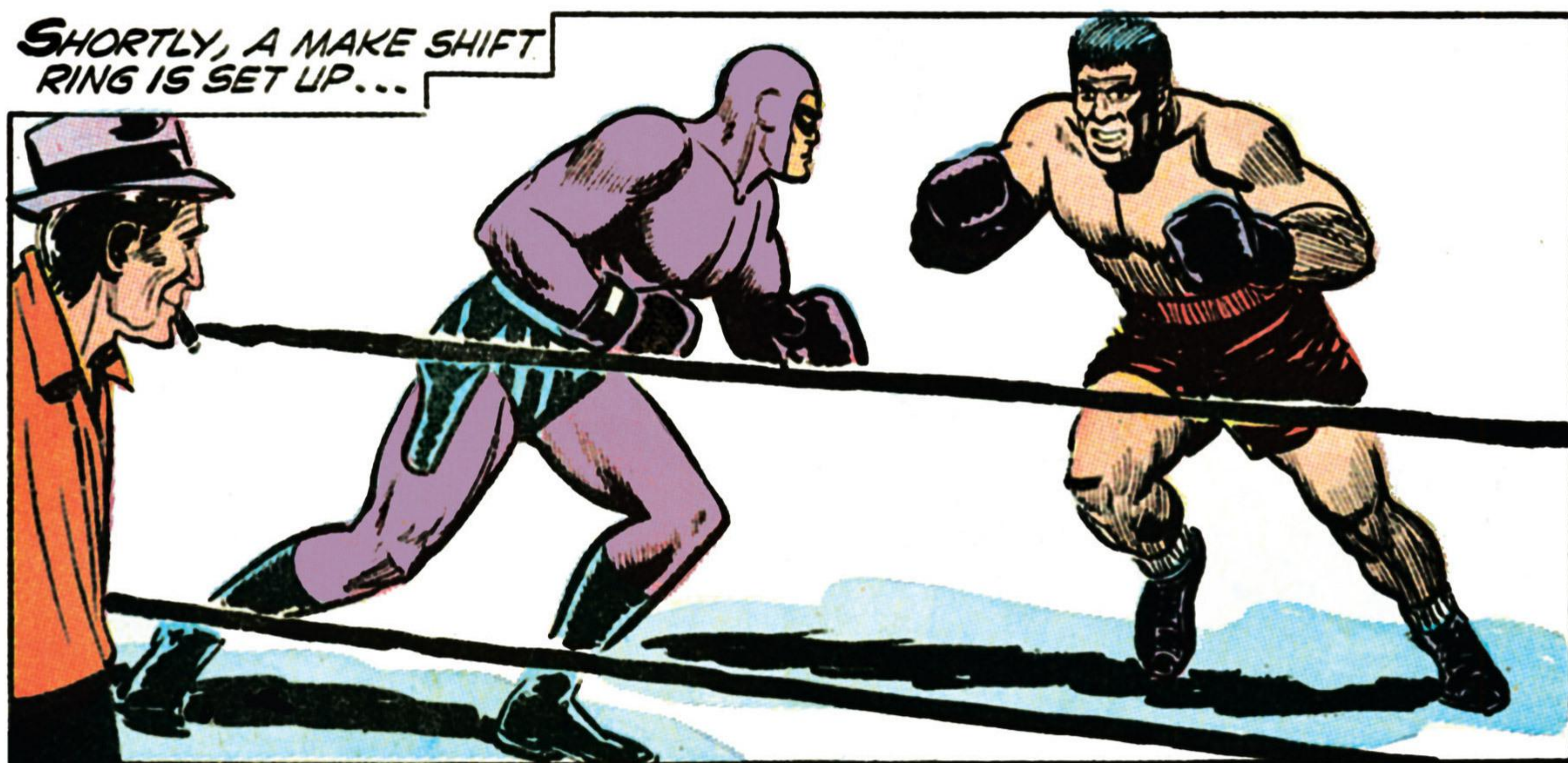
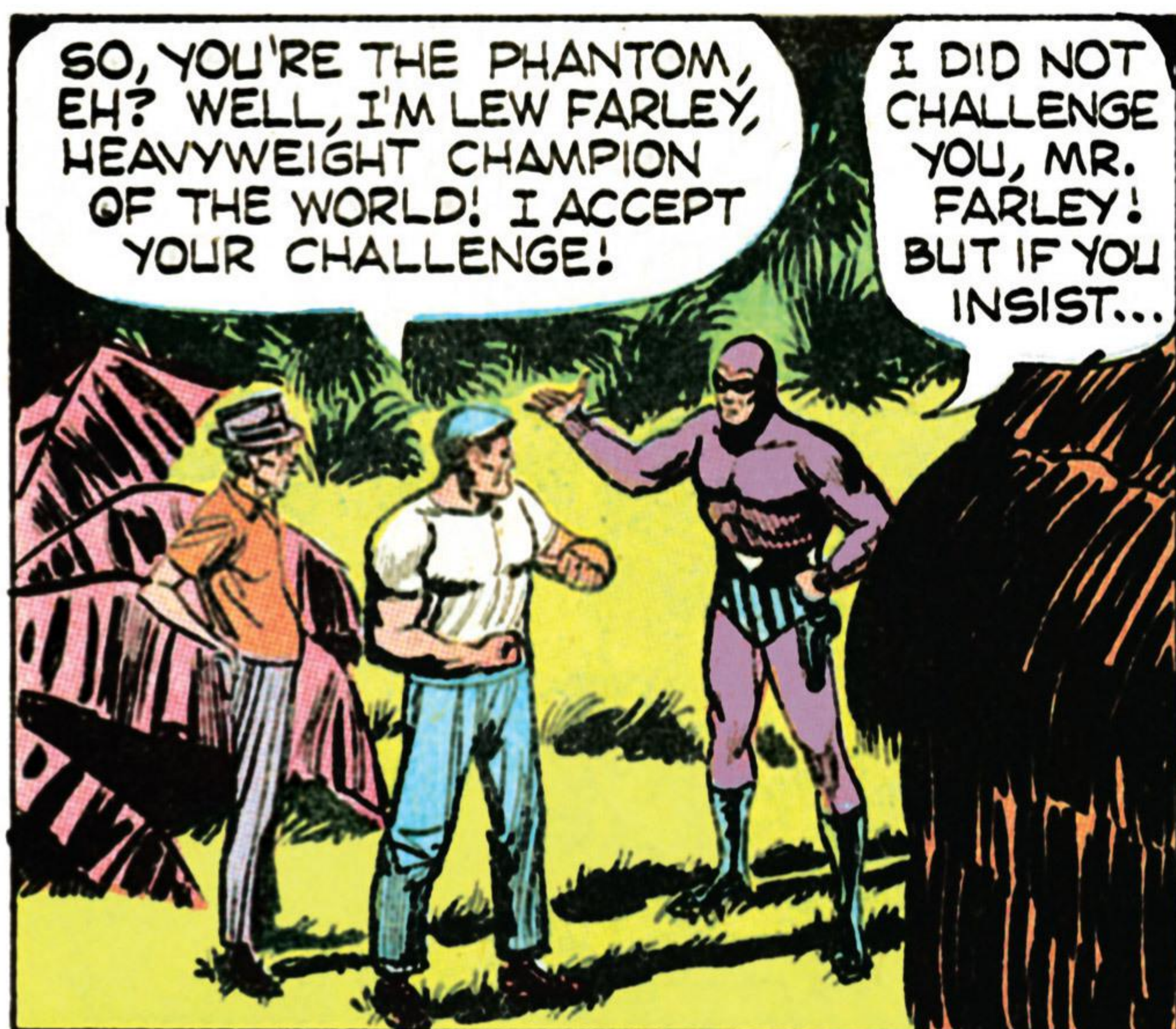
## The **BIG FIGHT**











LEW SWINGS WITH LIGHTENING SPEED, BUT THE JUNGLE INSTINCTS OF THE PHANTOM ARE MUCH FASTER...

BEFORE THE ARROGANT CHAMP CAN REGAIN HIS FOOTING, THE PHANTOM SWIFTLY COMES OUT OF HIS CROUCH AND DELIVERS A POWERFUL BLOW TO THE JAW...





**STUNNED, THE CHAMP SWINGS WILDLY AT THE ELLUSIVE PHANTOM...**



**A STRANGE QUIET ENVELOPES THE JUNGLE, BROKEN ONLY BY THE SOUND OF THE PHANTOM'S POWERFUL BLOWS!**



**"THE EARTH QUAKES, WHEN THE PHANTOM IS ANGRY"... OLD JUNGLE SAYING...**



HEY! THAT WAS **TERRIFIC!** HOW'D YOU LIKE TO SIGN UP WITH ME? WE COULD MAKE A **MILLION!**

NO THANKS! MY PLACE IS HERE ... TELL YOUR PHOTOGRAPHERS TO **DESTROY** THEIR FILM! THIS MUST REMAIN OUR **SECRET!**



THANK YOU, PHANTOM!

THIS WASN'T A TITLE BOLT, LEW! YOU'RE STILL THE CHAMP! PERHAPS, **NOW** YOU CAN WEAR THAT TITLE WITH A LITTLE MORE **HUMILITY!** GOOD LUCK!





# THE PHANTOM

BOOM-BOOM-BOOM-BOOM-BOOM-

## SOS PHANTOM

IN ALL PARTS OF THE JUNGLE, NATIVES KNOW THAT WHEN THEY NEED HIS HELP, *THE PHANTOM* WILL COME. SOMETIMES THEIR CALLS FOR HIS HELP COME IN THE BEAT OF A JUNGLE DRUM...

THE DRUMS ARE CALLING US, DEVIL!



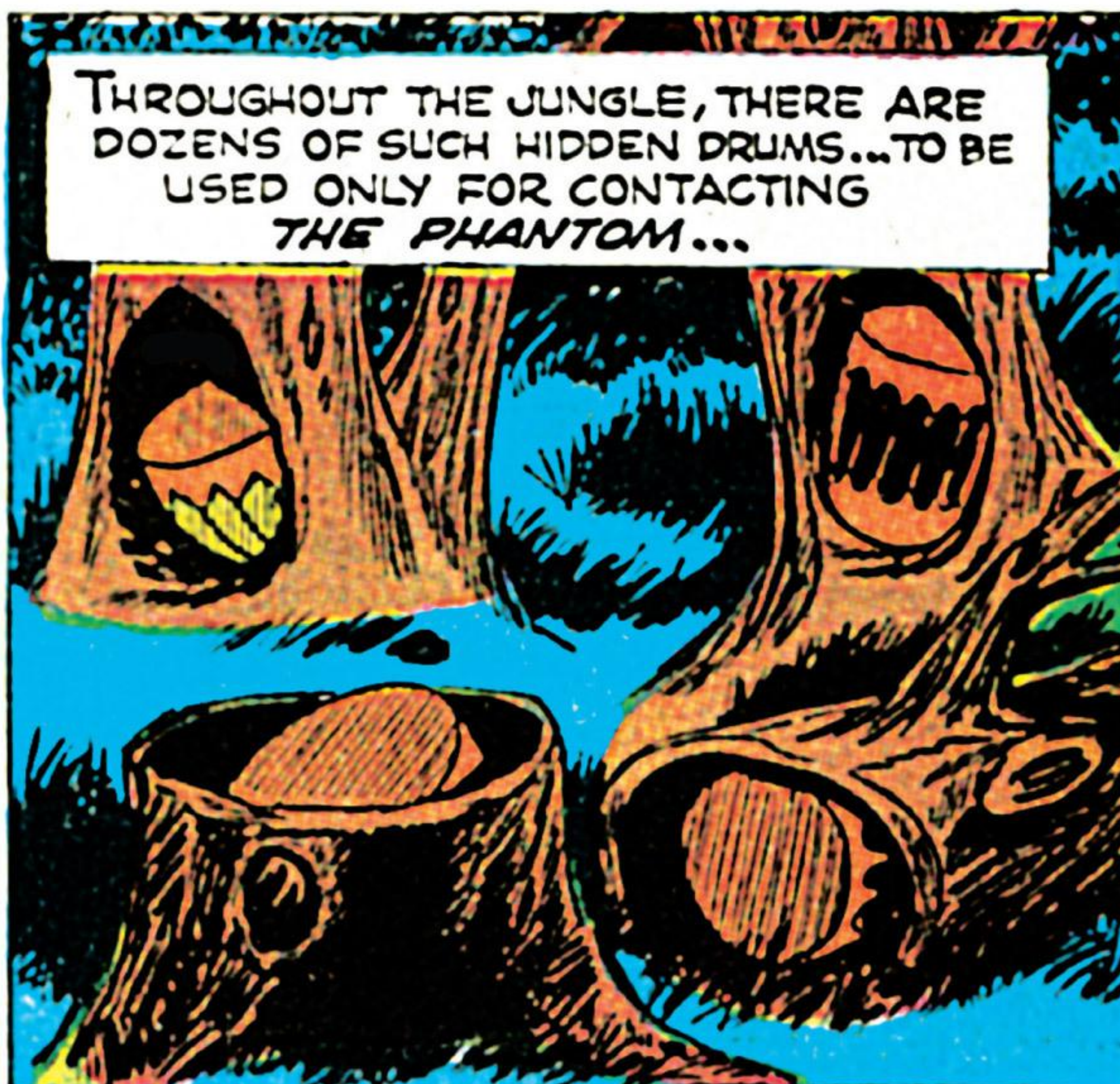
FAR AWAY, DEEP IN THE JUNGLE, A SPECIAL DRUM HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM A HOLLOW TREE TRUNK...

BOOM

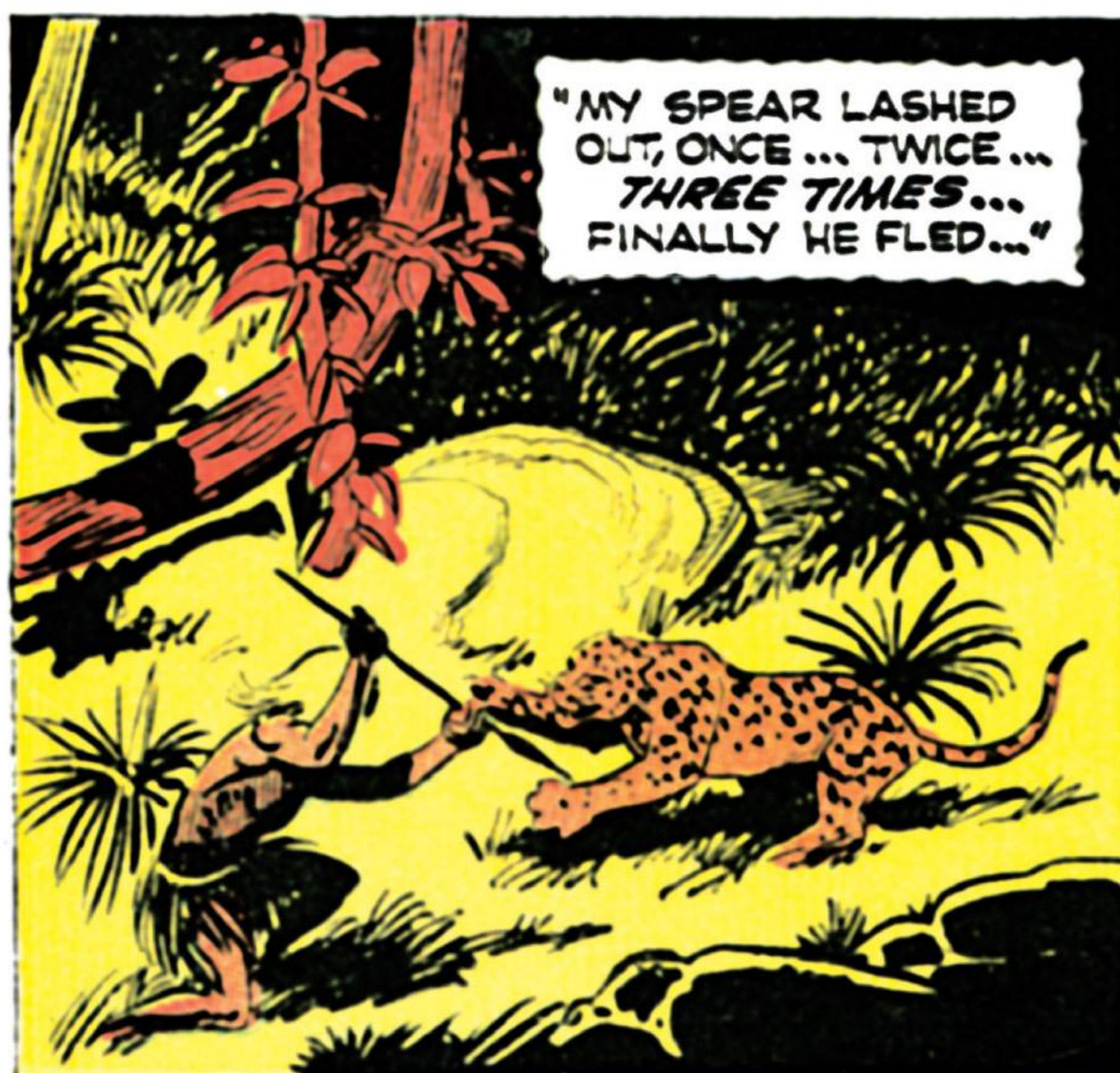
BOOM



THROUGHOUT THE JUNGLE, THERE ARE DOZENS OF SUCH HIDDEN DRUMS...TO BE USED ONLY FOR CONTACTING *THE PHANTOM*...



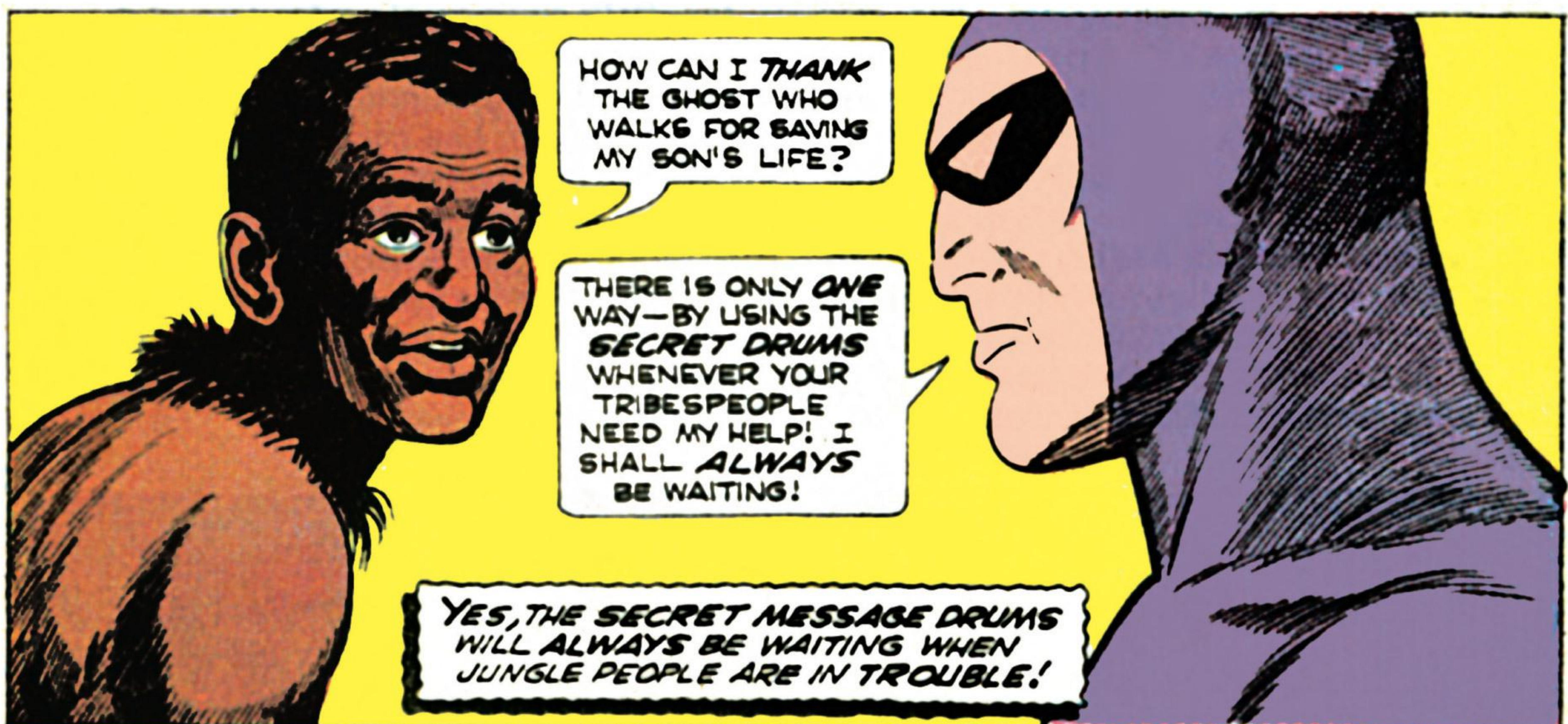
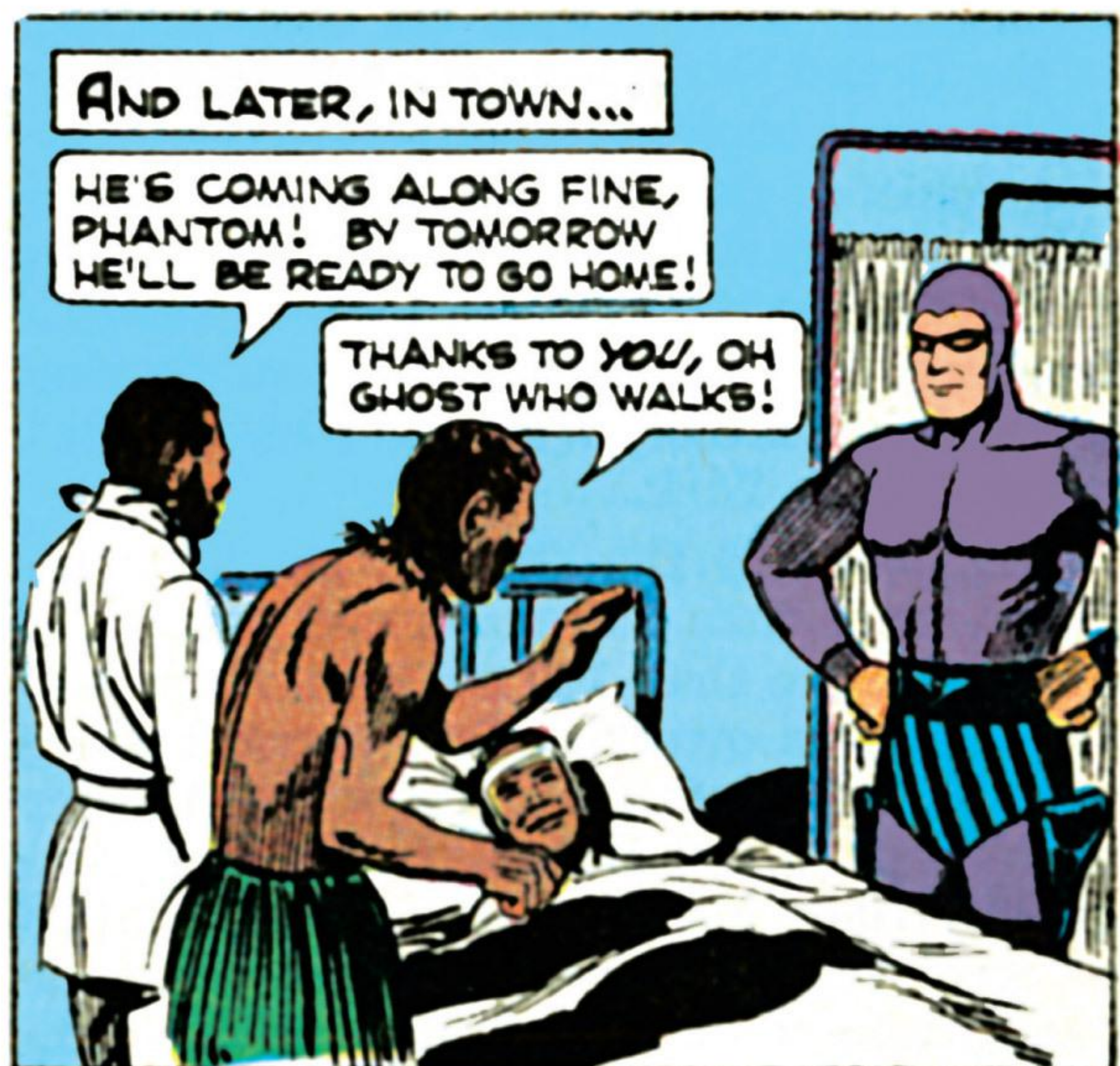














# SOS PHANTOM The PIRATE RAIDERS

OH, GHOST WHO WALKS...BAD MEN FROM  
SEA...ATTACK OUR VILLAGE...  
BOOM-BOOM-

THROUGHOUT THE BENGALI JUNGLE, A HUNDRED SECRET DRUMS ARE PLANTED... WHEN TROUBLE STRIKES, THE NATIVES KNOW THEIR CALL FOR HELP WILL TRAVEL SWIFTLY... TO THE SKULL CAVE AND THE PHANTOM...

PIRATES!  
RAIDING THE  
WAMBESI!

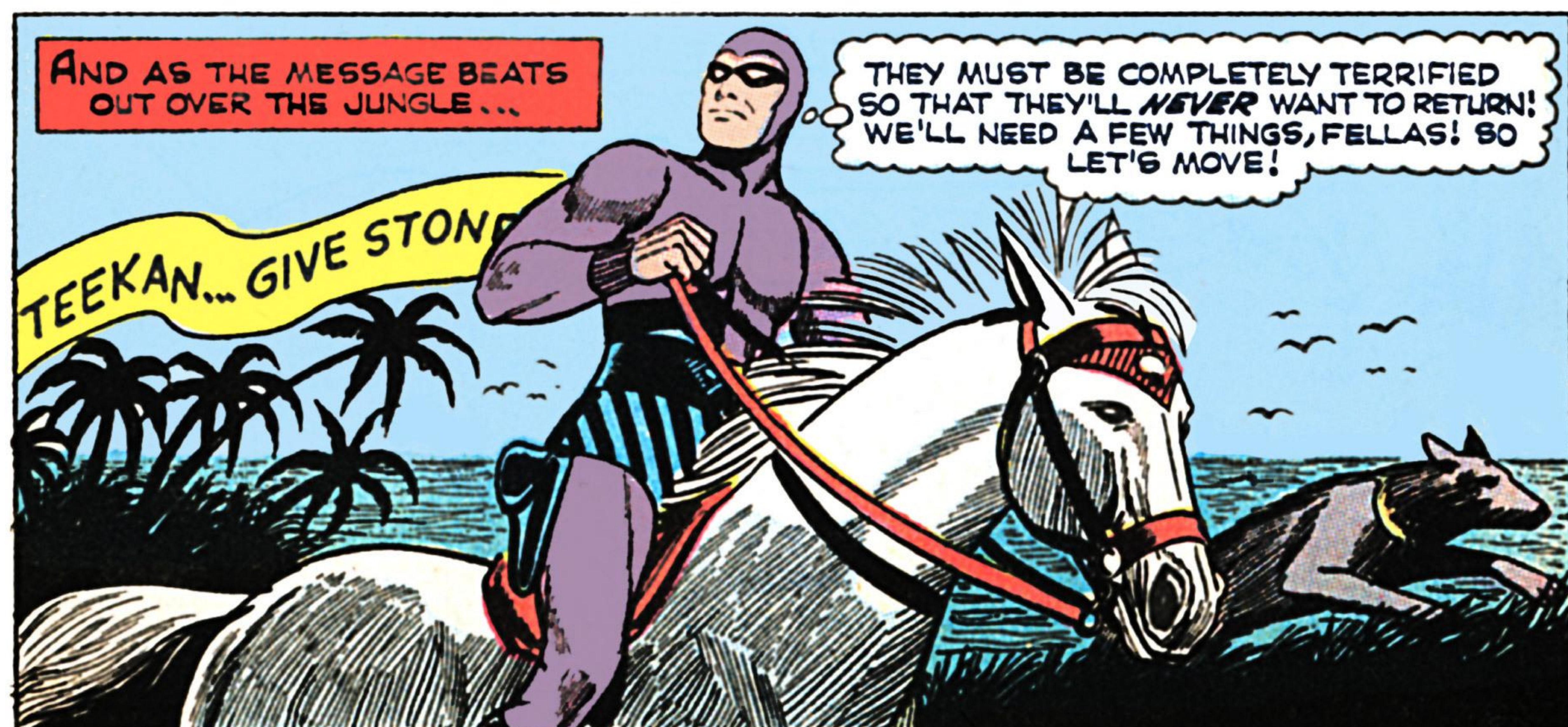
THE GHOST WHO WALKS FOLLOWS  
THE DRUM BEATS...

STRANGE THAT PIRATES WOULD  
BOTHR THE WAMBESI COAST VILLAGE...  
THEY HAVE NOTHING OF *VALUE* THERE!

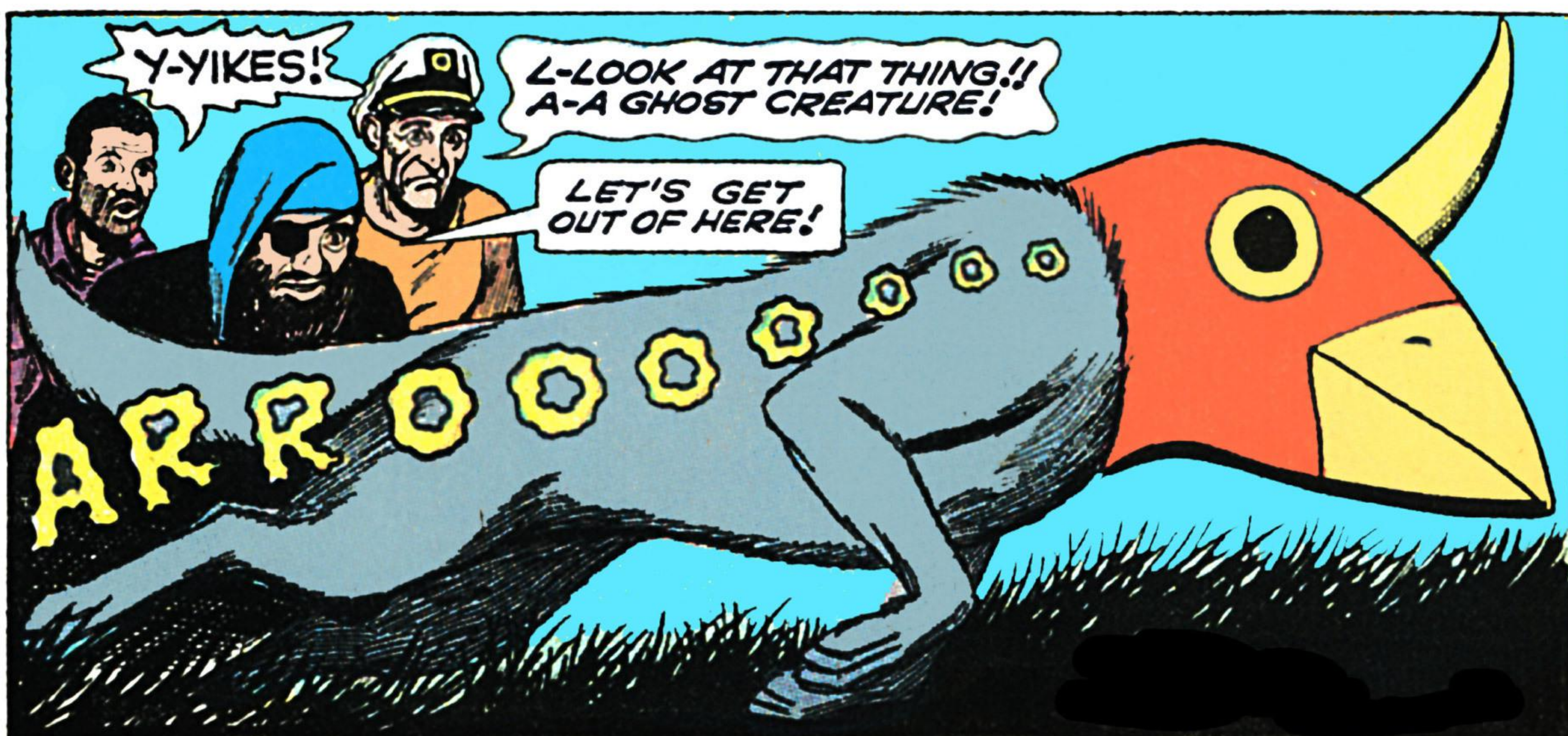
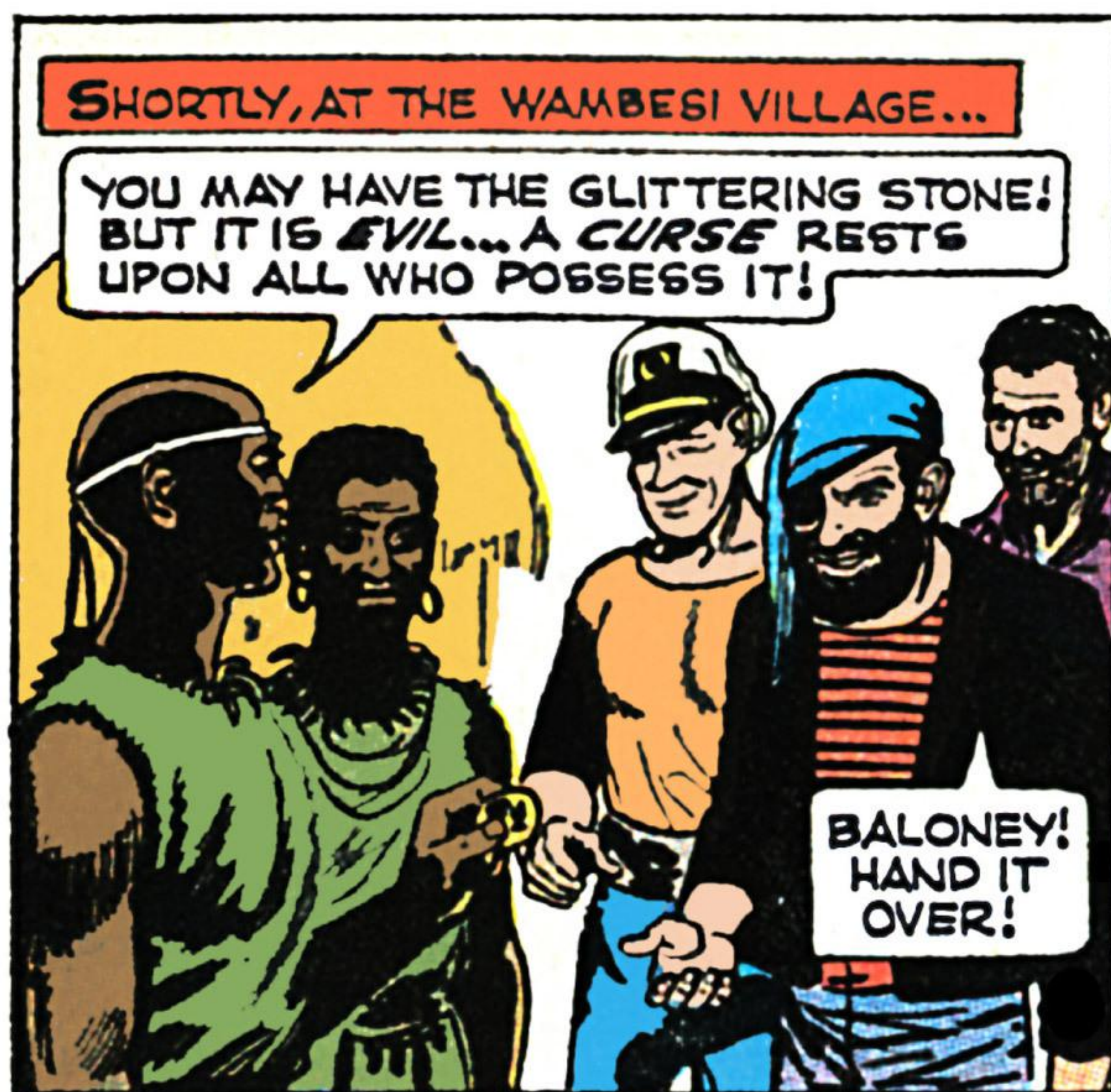
...AND AT THE TROUBLE SPOT...

IT HAPPENED JUST A SUN'S SHADOW  
AGO, PHANTOM! TEEKAN, OF MY VILLAGE,  
HAD FOUND A SHINING STONE IN THE  
STREAM...















## The PHANTOM

THE MYSTIC STRANGER HAD WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS A FOOLPROOF PLAN FOR CONTROL OF THE WHOLE BENGALI JUNGLE! FOR THE DEVOTED NATIVES WOULD HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT EVEN *THE PHANTOM* COULD NOT ESCAPE . . .

### The MAGIC IVORY CAGE

AH!  
BUT THEY  
DID NOT  
HAVE *MY*  
MYSTIC  
WISDOM,  
POTTER!

YOU REALLY THINK IT WILL  
WORK, SAMBANI?... A LOT  
OF CLEVER CHARACTERS  
HAVE FAILED TO FOOL  
*THE PHANTOM*!

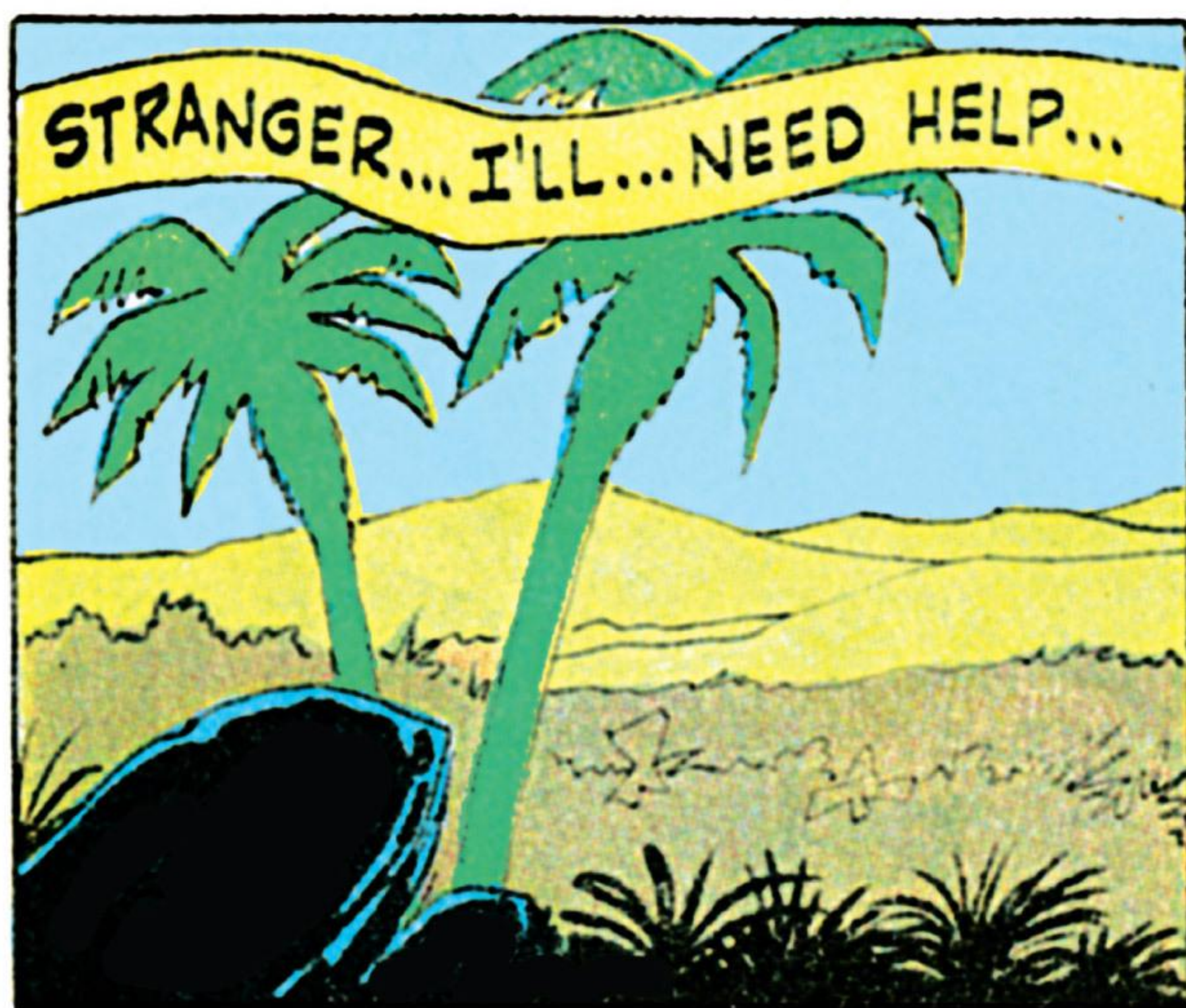
THE PHANTOM PUT THE SOS DRUM  
HERE TO HELP PEOPLE IN TROUBLE!  
WE'LL USE IT TO  
*MAKE* TROUBLE!

DARDO, HERE, IS  
VERY DEVOTED TO  
THE PHANTOM ...  
BUT HE HAS *GOOD*  
*REASON* FOR  
DOING WHAT  
I SAY...

YOU WILL BEGIN  
WHEN I GIVE  
THE SIGNAL!



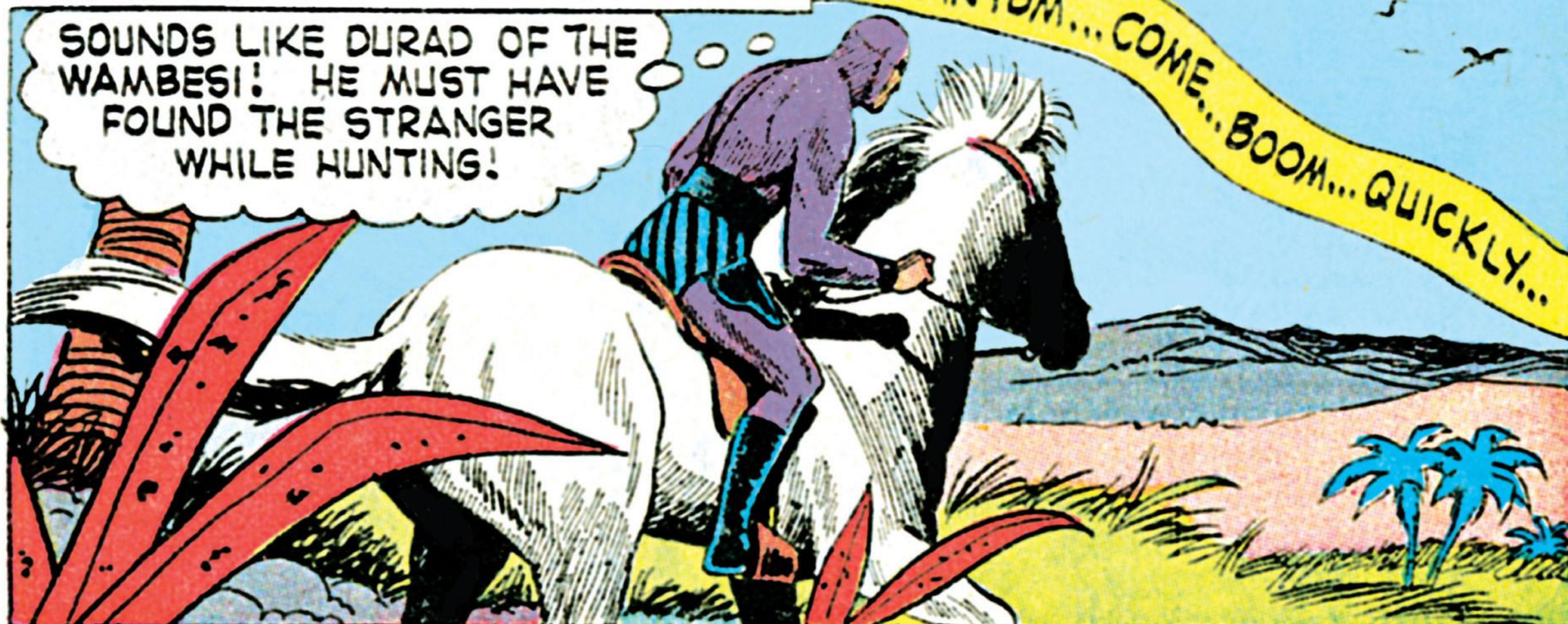
SOON AFTER, AN EERIE DRUM BEAT  
THROBS OVER THE JUNGLE FOLIAGE...



...FINALLY, IT REACHES THE DEEP WOODS...  
AND THE LEGENDARY *SKULL THRONE*...



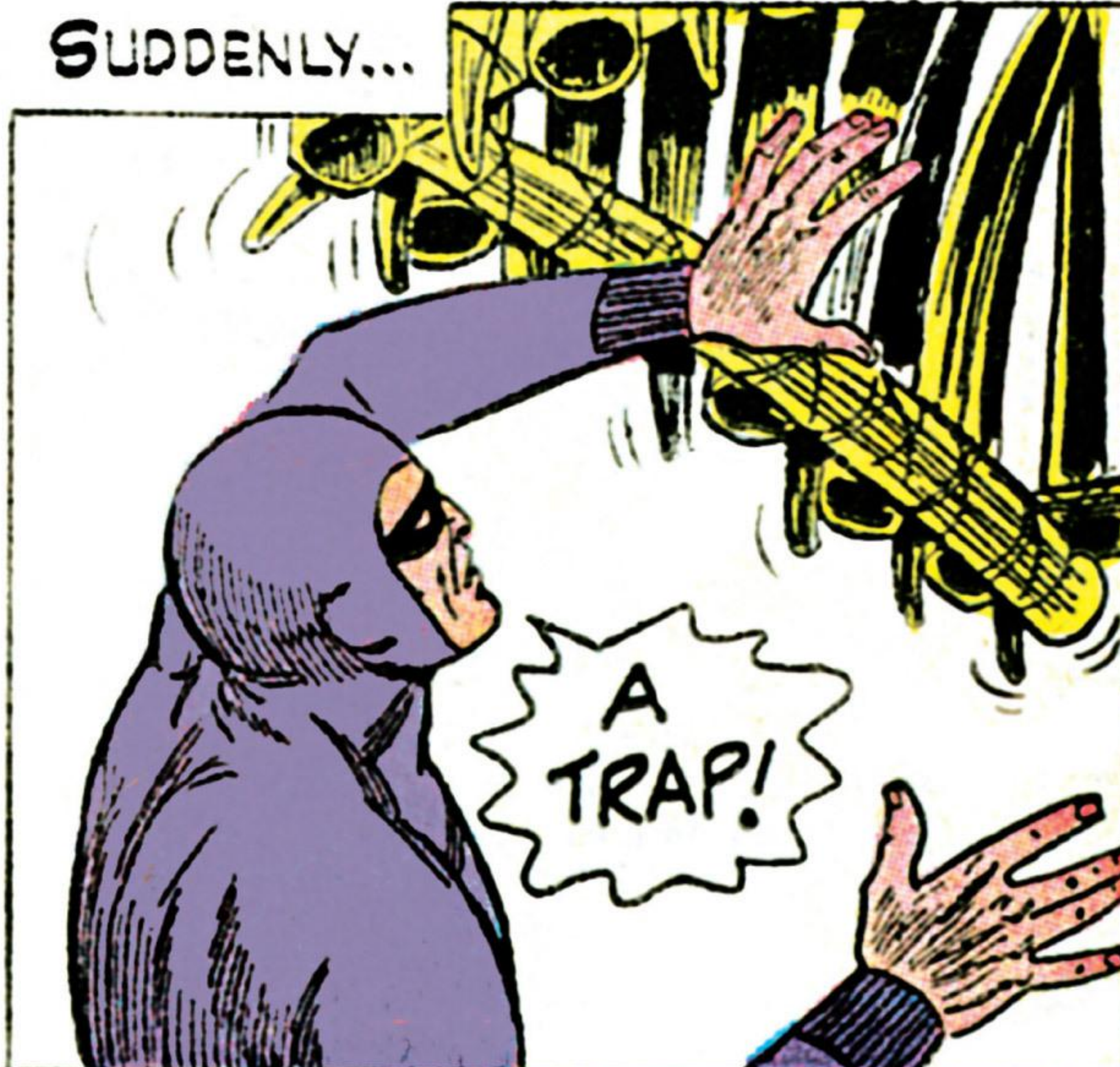
OVER SECRET JUNGLE TRAILS, THE  
PHANTOM FOLLOWS THE DRUM BEATS...



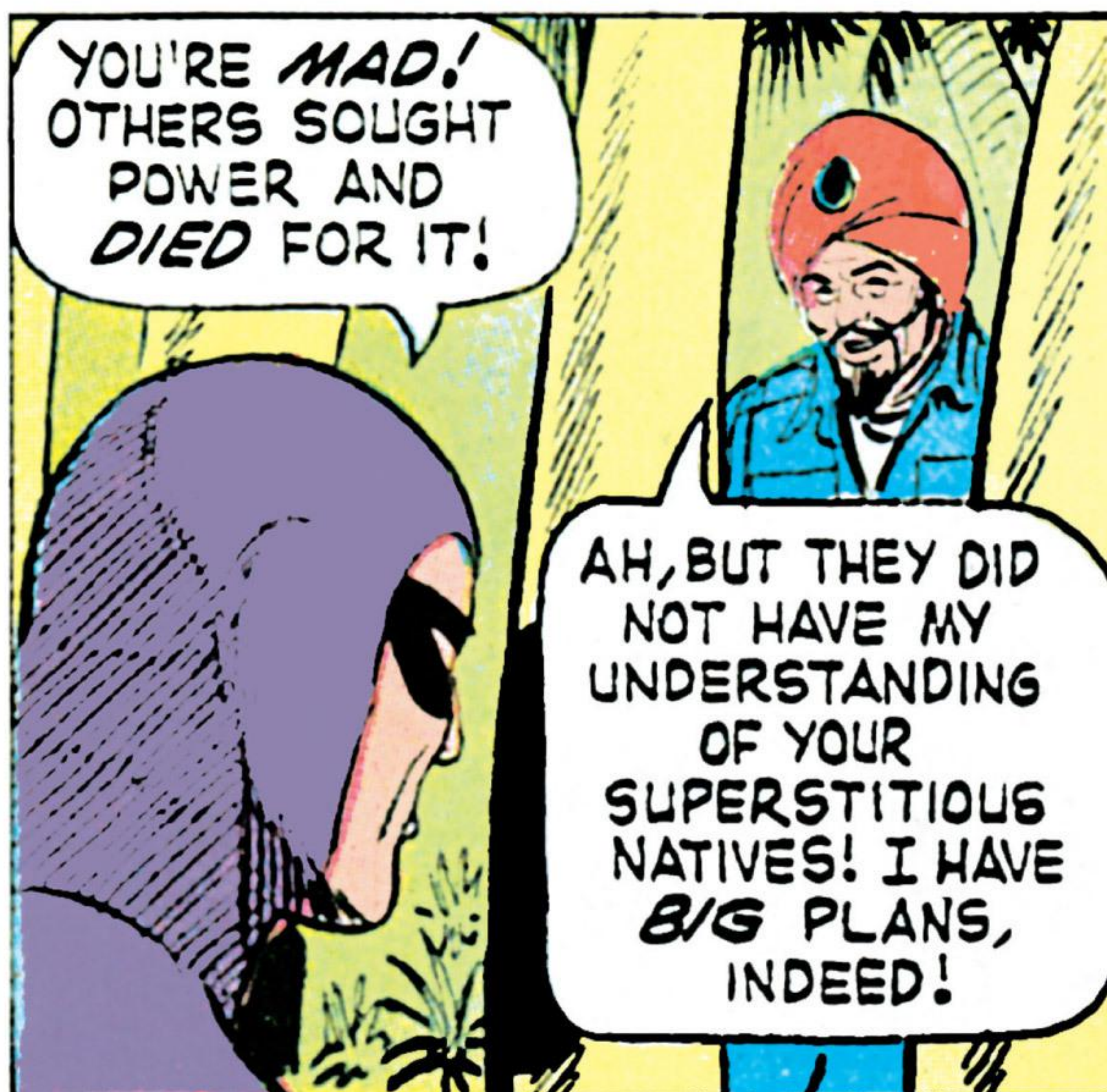
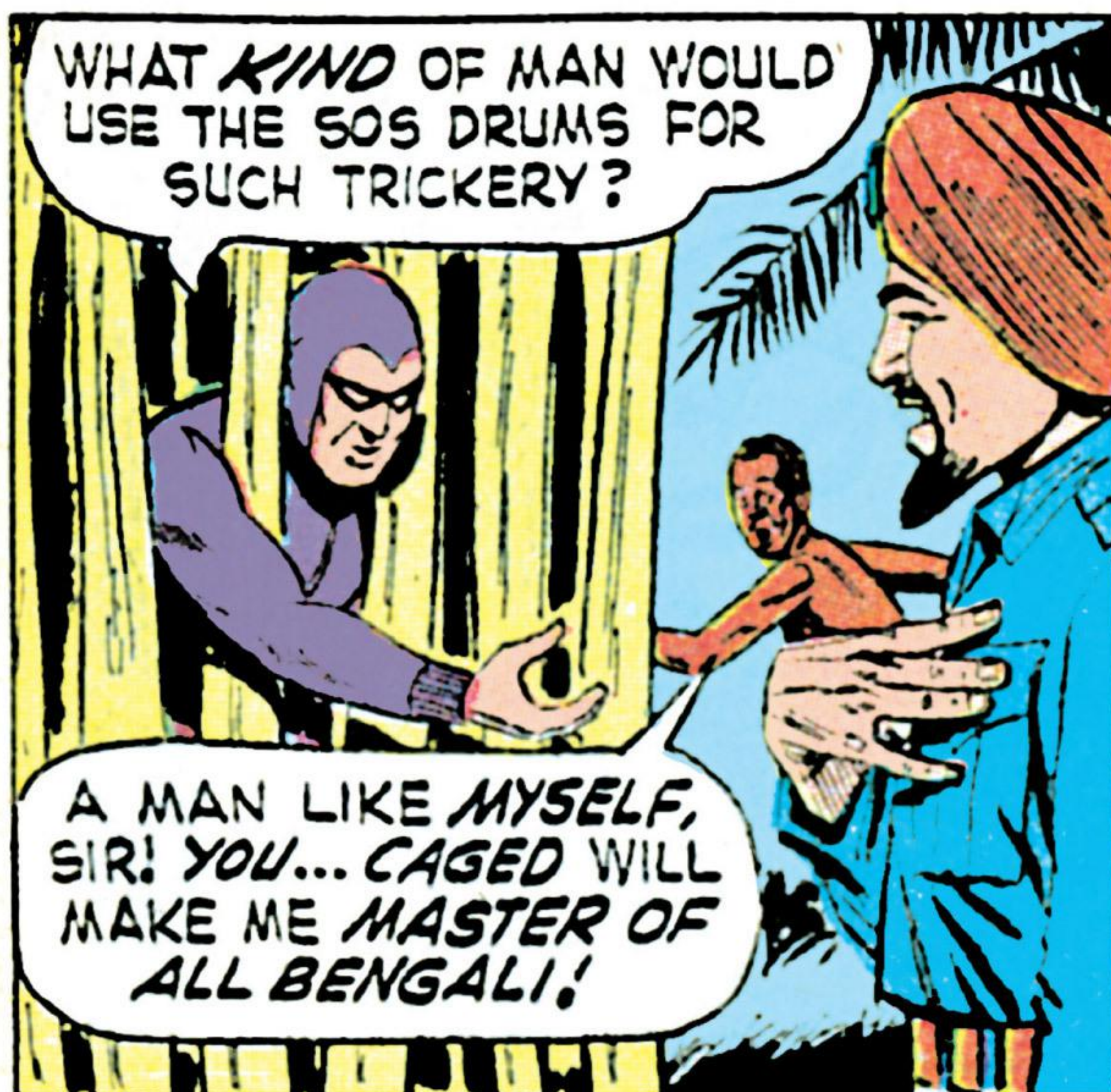
FINALLY...



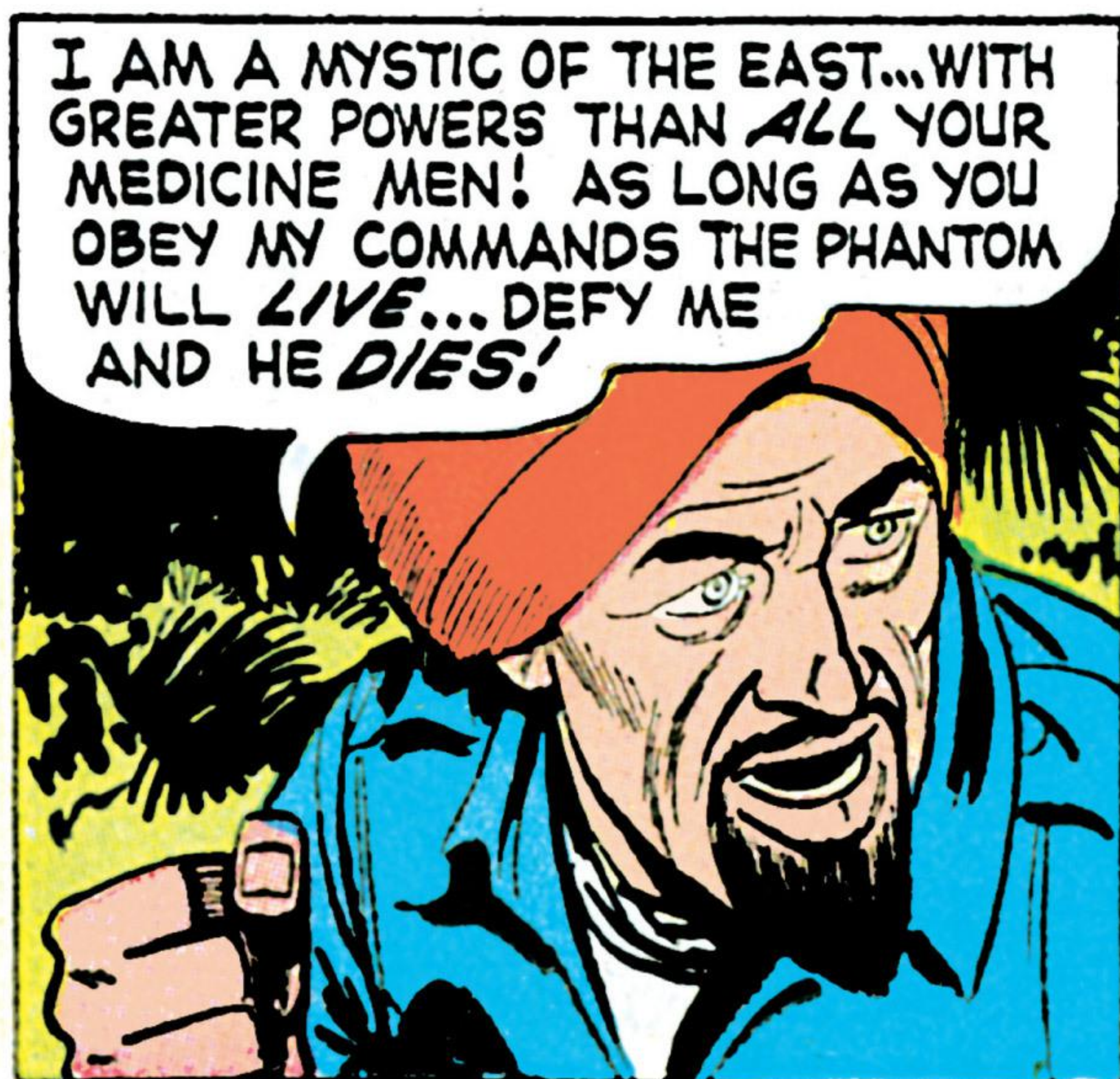
SUDDENLY...







THE NEXT DAY, NATIVES FROM A NEARBY VILLAGE ARE SUMMONED...





THAT NIGHT...

SHH-H...PHANTOM! IT IS I, DARDO! I HAVE COME TO EXPLAIN! M-MY *FAMILY*, THEY HOLD THEM AT KNIFE POINT... THAT IS WHY I DO THEIR BIDDING!



...BUT I HAVE A PLAN TO MAKE UP FOR MY MISTAKE! LISTEN...



GOOD BOY, DARDO!

LATER...

IMPOSSIBLE!

PHANTOM! HE'S *FREE*!



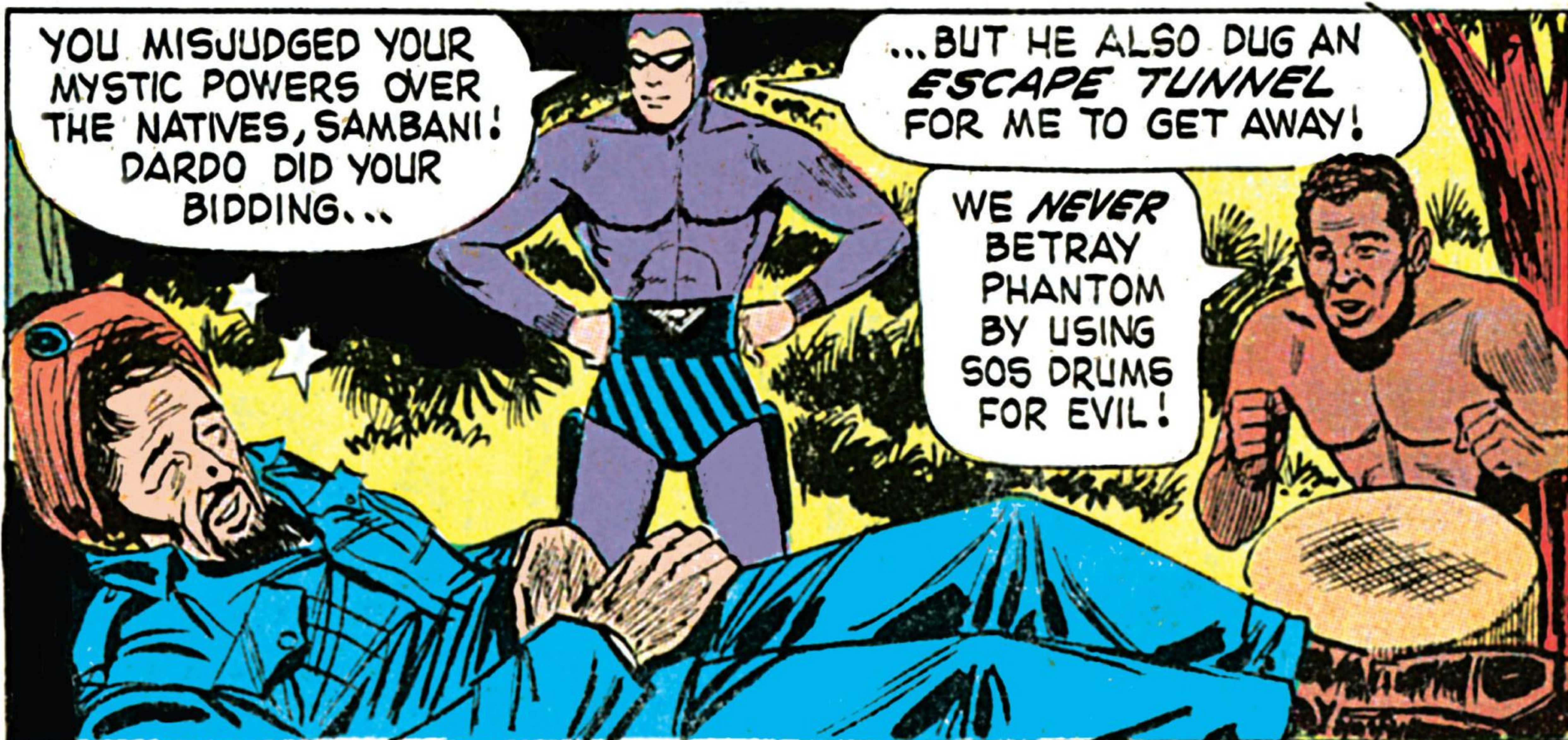
THE "IMPOSSIBLE" OFTEN HAPPENS HERE IN THE BENGALI JUNGLE, SAMBANI!



YOU MISJUDGED YOUR MYSTIC POWERS OVER THE NATIVES, SAMBANI! DARDO DID YOUR BIDDING...

...BUT HE ALSO DUG AN *ESCAPE TUNNEL* FOR ME TO GET AWAY!

WE *NEVER* BETRAY PHANTOM BY USING SOS DRUMS FOR EVIL!





# The *GIRL PHANTOM*

JUNGLE-TRAINED  
SISTER OF THE  
GHOST WHO WALKS

THE PHANTOM CHRONICLES TELL THE TALE OF A PRETTY YOUNG GIRL WHO LIVED IN THE DEEP WOODS MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO. SHE WAS THE PHANTOM'S TWIN SISTER...NO ORDINARY GIRL. ON OCCASION SHE TOOK IT UPON HERSELF TO REPLACE THE PHANTOM HIMSELF...TO BECOME A PHANTOM *PHANTOM*. THIS WAS SUCH AN OCCASION...

MOVE, YOU LAZY LOOTS!  
I WANT MY CAMP SET  
UP BEFORE NIGHTFALL!  
FROM NOW ON, I'M BIG  
CHIEF OF YOUR JUNGLE!

BIG BOSCOLO  
THE BEAST—  
SETTING UP CAMP!  
I'VE GOT TO  
STOP HIM!

WHAT SHALL WE DO,  
MISSY JULIE? THE  
PHANTOM IS AWAY!

EVEN WITH ALL  
YOUR SKILLS  
YOU CAN NOT  
STAND UP TO  
SUCH A *BRUTE*!

BE CALM,  
MARU!

DON'T FIGURE THAT *PHANTOM*  
*CHARACTER* CAN HELP YOU!  
I'M TOUGHER AND SMARTER THAN  
YOUR MUMBO JUMBO *GHOST*  
*WHO WALKS*!

WE SHALL  
*SEE*,  
BOSCOLO!



THAT NIGHT IN SKULL CAVE...

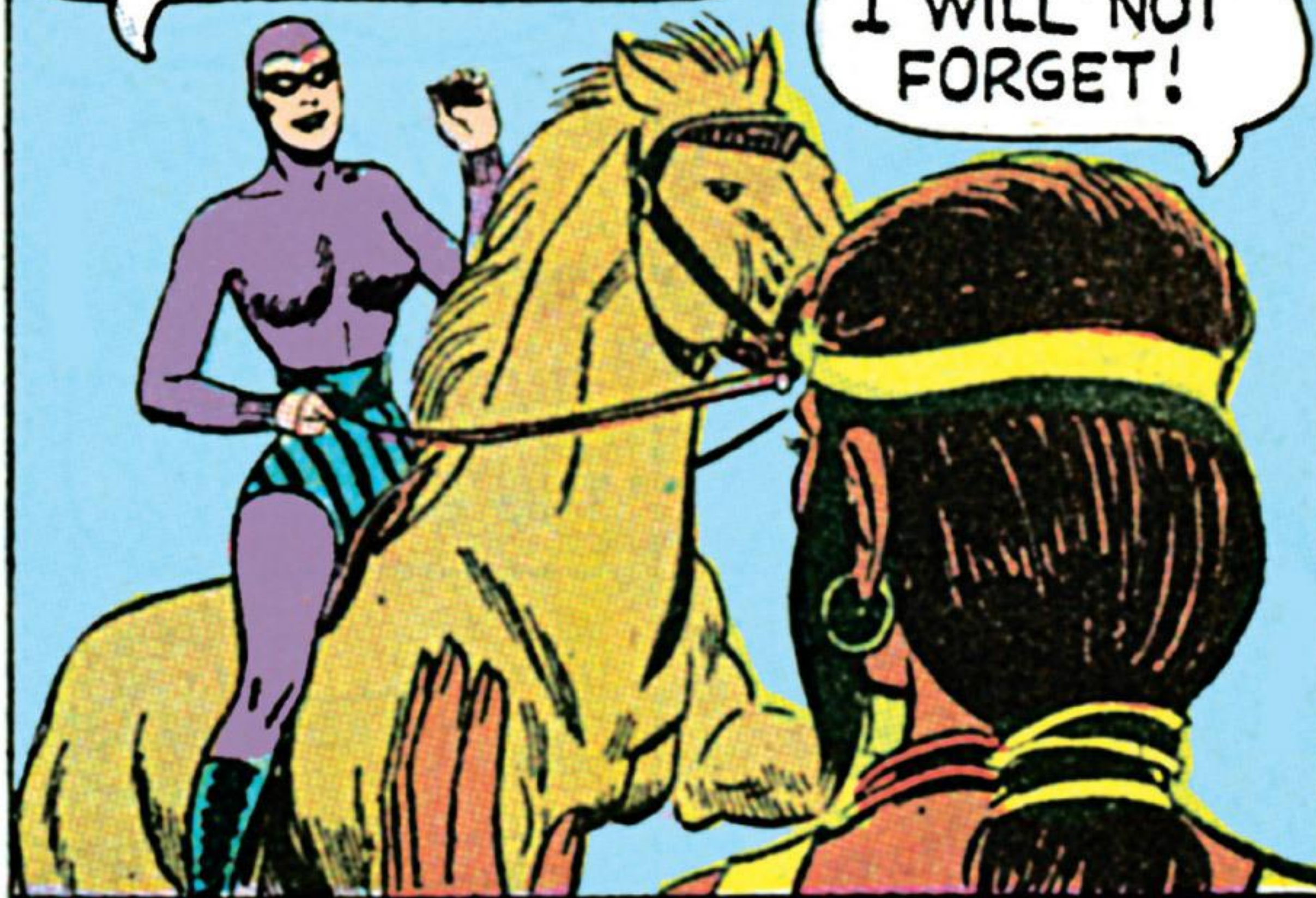
I DO NOT LIKE THIS, MISSY JULIE! THERE IS ONLY **ONE** PHANTOM! WHAT WOULD **HE** SAY IF HE KNEW YOU, HIS **SISTER**, WERE TAKING HIS PLACE?



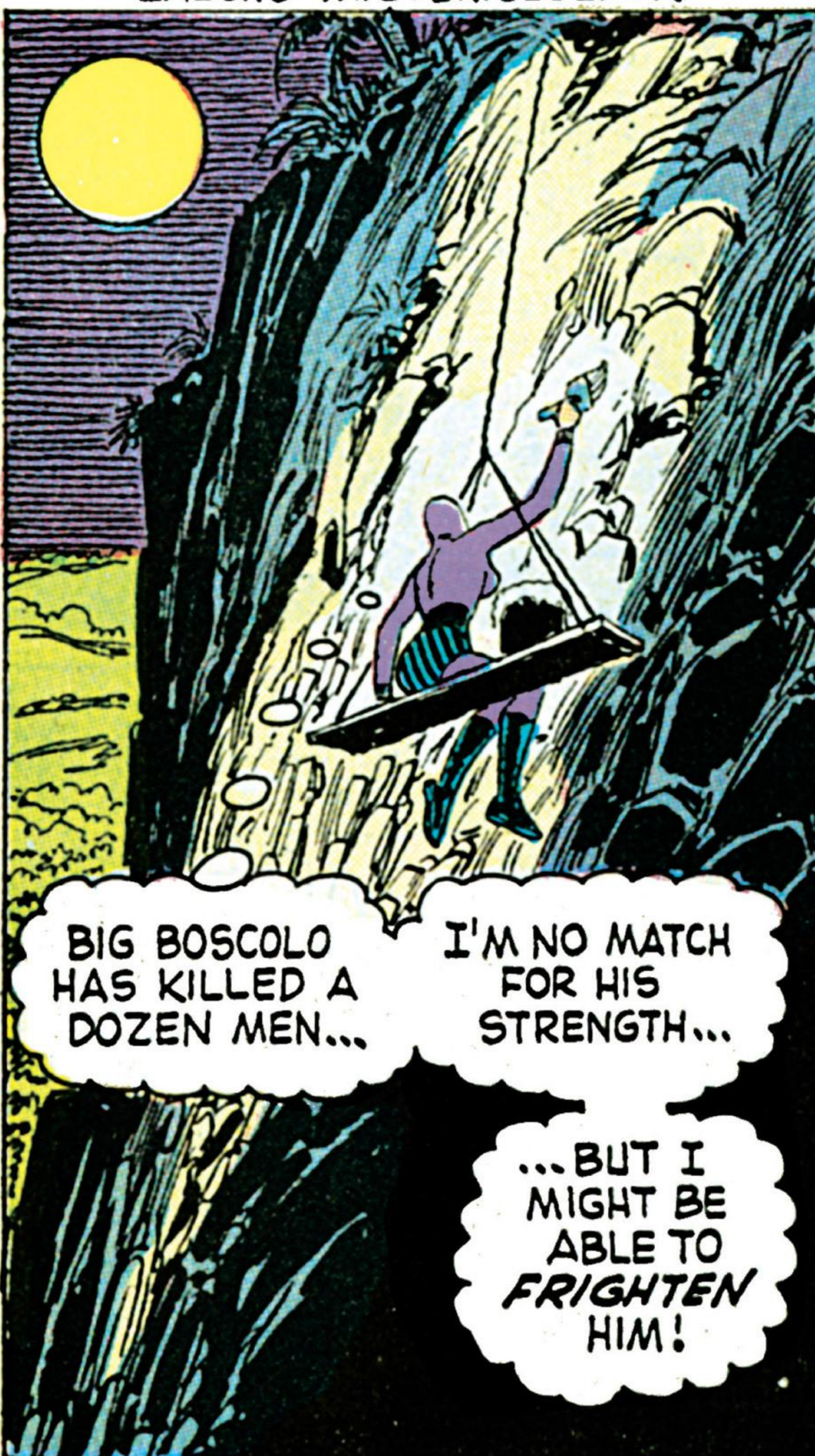
AFTER MIDNIGHT...

IF I AM NOT BACK TOMORROW BY NOON, GIVE MY NOTE TO THE **PHANTOM** WHEN HE RETURNS!

I WILL NOT FORGET!



LATER, AN AGILE FIGURE DESCENDS A CLIFF SIDE... AND FOR LONG HOURS LABORS MYSTERIOUSLY...



BIG BOSCOLO HAS KILLED A DOZEN MEN...

I'M NO MATCH FOR HIS STRENGTH...

...BUT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO **FRIGHTEN** HIM!

CONCEALED IN A DEEP CANYON WHOSE WALLS AMPLIFY HER VOICE, JULIE PUTS HER PLAN TO WORK...

BOSCOLO, THE BEAST! THIS IS THE **PHANTOM**!



YOU HAVE BROKEN THE PHANTOM PEACE...

TH-THE **PHANTOM**!



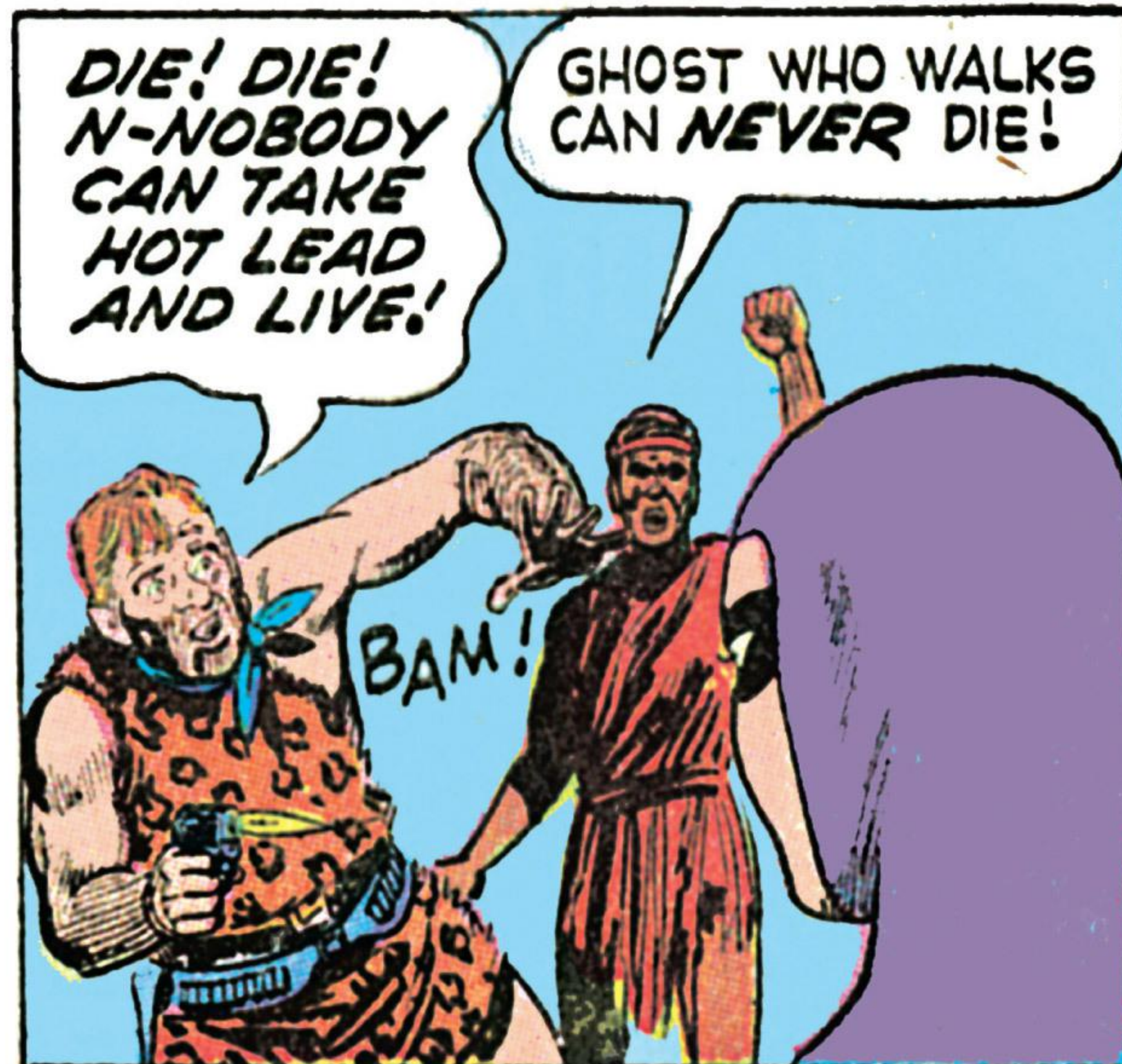




BIG BOSCOLO'S FACE GOES WHITE WITH TERROR AS THE RISING SUN HITS THE FACE OF THE CLIFF...











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